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Newsletter 30

"The glory of creation is in its infinite diversity and the way our differences combine to create meaning and beauty."

Honorary Members: Gene Roddenberry, Majel Barrett, Jonathan del Arco, Richard Arnold, James Doohan, Siddig El Fadil, Robert Justman, Walter Koenig, John de Lancie & Marnie Mosiman, Mark Lenard, Michael Okada, Ernie Over, Nichelle Nichols, Susan Sackett, Marina Sirtis, Patrick Stewart, Rick Sternbach, George Takei, Guy Vardaman, Rupert Evans, Lorraine Kelly, Anne Page, Rick Parfitt, Bjo Trimble.

Hi, welcome to another newsletter.

We want to give a special welcome to all you new members and to our new honorary members; Nichelle Nichols, Jonathan del Arco & Bob Justman. And no, Bob, IDIC, as in the club's name, does not stand for "Incredible Detail, Infinite Confusion" - although there are times when that name would be appropriate. There is no need for anyone to tie their tongues in a knot trying to pronounce Lochgilphead - try Loch-gilp-head. The head of Loch Gilp - simple! Actually one advantage of the fax machine is that Janet doesn't have to try and give her address over the phone so often...

Walter, we were very sorry to hear about your heart attack and we are glad to hear that you are recovering well. We are sure all members join us in wishing you a full recovery - hope you received the card okay.

Our congratulations to Diane Deans and Steven Henry who got married in Aberdeen on August 12th - we hope you had a day to remember.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we do have a lot of convention reports in this

newsletter. We may hold some of them over until next time.

ZINES

We have now published 3 ScoTpress zines at the new A5 size. The price is £2.50 as against £4 for the A4 size. We do really need to know what you think of the new size. So far the response has been mainly favourable but there has been some negative response, saying the print is too small. Two of the zines are the same size as the newsletter but single column. Distaff Side is double-column with the text reduced slightly to reduce the length of the zine. How do readers feel about double columning the zines, the same as the newsletter? According to the books on printing the short lines should make the print easier to read.

If more of you are willing to buy the A5 zines at the reduced price it could help us continue with zine production.

If you are thinking of trying some of the zines this is a good time to start. Because Sheila is running out of storage space we have decided to cut our losses and reduce the price of some of our old zines. See the zine

ad section for details.

FAXES

We would like to thank those of you who have already used the fax facility. Janet has found the fax machine very useful, especially since it doubles as a photocopier, albeit only for small jobs. However it has been a bit of a problem having it on the house line, so Janet has now got a separate line in just for the fax. **Please note that from October 10th the fax phone number is**

0546 606539

This means that you should be able to send a fax at any time, whatever kind of fax you have.

Janet has also persuaded Sheila to buy a phone/fax machine (just using her phone number). It is programmed for the fax to answer after six rings so please do not fax Sheila after 11.00 pm - her machine is VERY NOISY once the fax cuts in.

BADGES

You can still order IDIC logo badges from Janet at 50p inclusive of p&p. Please make payment in stamps. Also please enclose a self addressed sticky label or write your name and address on a piece of paper which we can stick on an envelope.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Since we aren't able to attend any more conventions until next year we would appreciate reports on upcoming events - plus Lightspeed. We are still holding a number of articles but don't let that stop you sending more in. Having a selection helps keep a balance in the newsletter and we are still considering the possibility of putting out a year book if we find we are having to hold too many articles.

The closing date for the next newsletter is **November 10th** (November 6th for anything sent to Sheila). Don't forget - send postbag submissions, articles and reviews to Sheila, discs and everything else to Janet. And PLEASE put your full name on all submissions - if you don't and it gets

separated from your letter then we can't print it.

If you are using a computer we would be very grateful if you could send your submissions on disc. We can read BBC & Archimedes discs, MS DOS 3.5" (all formats - but preferably 720K+), 5.25" (720K max. and preferably 720K), Atari ST discs, Amstrad PCW 3" discs. If you don't have Impression or Word Perfect, all files should be saved as ASCII text files, aligned left and preferably saved without line-end markers. **Note:** if you are sending a disc to Janet do not send a separate hard-copy to Sheila.

Our thanks to Daniel H. Allshouse, Chris Bailey, Jennifer Blanchard, Chris Boyce, Fiona Campbell, John Cloke, Chris Coxon, Barbara Ellams, Peter Fryer, Richard Gibb, Stephen Gibb, Becky Gray, Katrina Heintz, Sara Jackson, Nanaki Kaur, Fiona MacDonald, Pamela McDowall, Ross McIntyre, Stewart J. McMillan, Philip Morley, Harminder Pal, Margaret Rainey, Shirley Read, Jim Redrup, Ronald Reid, Moira Russell, Stephen Shaw, Jean Sloan, Karen Sparks, Alan Stephen, Jenny Turner, John Vernon, Joan Verba, Linda Ware and anyone we have inadvertently forgotten to mention, for sending information and/or cuttings.

IDIC GUIDE DOG APPEAL

We're getting on well with collecting the money for our next guide dog; we're over halfway there. Janet, Sheila and member Jackie Comben took the collecting box to Forfar after Contagion; it also included donations from Warp One and an Away Team meeting, and it was *heavy*! There was £89.60 in it. We also handed in £60 that we took at Contagion from selling second hand zines and books. The collecting box took £45.71 at Holodeck, which brings the amount on our accumulator card at Forfar - which is mostly made up from what is taken in the collecting box - to just over £358. Added to this is over £1000 raised from the raffle and generous donations by Bjo and by members who have sent money and merchandise for resale. This makes our current total nearly £1400 - only £600 to go!

Our thanks to Sue Jones, Jackie Comben, Sadie Mason and Lesley Richardson for "encouraging" donations at conventions.

While we were at Forfar we got the chance to see Sadie again. She's looking far more sure of herself than she was when we met her earlier in the year - self possessed, confident, we're sure she'll make someone an excellent companion.

We'd like to thank Nichelle Nichols, Jonathan del Arco and Robert Justman for autographing some photos for us. We'll be offering them as raffle prizes over the next year or so.

SPACE TIME CONTINUUM

Bjo Trimble's donation of sample copies of her Space Time Continuum newsletter raised over £57 - thanks Bjo.

RAFFLE

The raffle winners are William Taylor - a copy of The Man Between the Ears; Mollie Weston - a ST:TNG board game; Mrs H.M. Bickley, a year's membership of IDIC.

We are having another raffle in this newsletter but as it was getting rather expensive sending 10 raffle tickets each to over 1200 members, this time we are just enclosing two tickets, which are £1 each. If you think about it the odds on winning are still the same. The three prizes this time are an autographed 10"x 8" photo of Nichelle Nichols, a copy of Starlog TNG magazine No. 21 (Hugh Borg on the cover) autographed by Jonathan Del Arco, and the usual IDIC membership.. For those who wish to take part - please state any preference and put it with your name and address or membership number on each individual ticket. Tickets are £1 each. Please send your ticket/s (and money, of course!) to Sheila or Janet by November 10th. Winners will be announced in the next newsletter.

Please do not send £1 coins (some of these have been lost in the post) and please do not send cheques or POs for less than £2; we will accept stamps (any combination of values from 1p to £2).

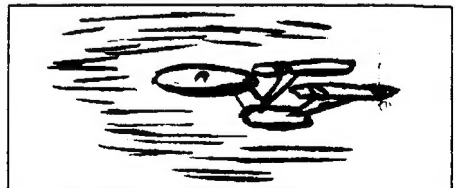
USED STAMPS

If you are only sending used stamps please send them to Sheila as she is the one who takes them to Forfar. If you are enclosing them with other items you can send them to Janet or Valerie for Sheila to collect.

We would like to thank J Blanchard, Sandy Catchick, Ewan Chalmers, Julie Daniell, Paul Diskin, Ian Dixon, Michael Farquhar, Paul & Judie von der Fecht, Mark French, Gloria Fry, Becky Gray, Heather of Bournemouth, George Haggarty, Grace Hawkins, Carole Hedge, Adele Hilton, Tracy Holland, Paul Hulford, John Hurles, Sara Jackson, Michael Johnson, Sue Jones, Nanaki Kaur, Ruth Kurz, Carol Kean, P Lawrence, Meg Lahey, Debbie Lee, Jude Linsell, Angrit Lower, Mark from Wakefield, Julie Maggs, Jo Maguire, William Marsh, Pamela McDowall, Ross McIntyre, Fiona McOran-Campbell, Philip Morley, Barry O'Doherty, Harminster Pal, Suzanne Perry, Ann Peters, Kayta Phillips, Shirley Read, Ronald Reid, Ann Reynolds, Allison Rooney, Tracy Saunders, Shirley Shatner, James Shaw, Jean Sloan, Karen Sparks, Wendy Steventon, Alexis Stokes, Bill Taylor, Rachel Timms, Jenny Turner, Emer Twomey, Linda Ware, Warp One, Janet Wicks, Edward Woo, C Wuttke and anyone we have inadvertently forgotten or who didn't give their name who has donated money, collectibles, and/or used stamps for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. We can use all used stamps, whether British or Foreign. If possible please trim them, leaving 1/4" of envelope around the stamp.

We hope to post the next newsletter out around December 1st.

Janet, Sheila, Valerie 19/9/93



"Entering gas cloud, Captain."

"I told Scotty not to eat that Andorian vindaloo last night!"



LATEST STAR TREK NEWS

compiled by Janet Quarton



SKY

Sky One, along with several other channels, was scrambled at the beginning of September, meaning that those viewers who didn't subscribe to the movie channels now have to pay to watch Sky One. A number of our European members are upset about this - not because there is a charge but because they are not allowed to subscribe and therefore they can no longer watch these channels. There seems to be some misunderstanding by members who think it is Sky's decision not to sell subscriptions outside the UK. We wrote to Sky and here is their reply:

"With regard to your question concerning subscriptions abroad, I would advise that our six channels are copyright cleared for viewing within the UK and Eire only. Therefore, the cards that we supply can only be sent to homes within these territories."

We have been asked by some European members to carry advertisements from them asking for a UK member to subscribe to Sky and send them the card. Unfortunately we would be liable to prosecution if we carried such adverts. However, European members may advertise that they would like to contact some UK members. Any UK member sending Sky viewing cards abroad does so at their own risk; if they are caught it is likely that that their account will be closed immediately. We certainly wouldn't recommend anyone already subscribing to Sky should take out a second subscription for this purpose.

STAR TREK: 4TH SERIES

ST:TNG ends with its seventh season and reports are coming in of a planned 4th ST series.

A number of papers have carried the story. The reports say that the new series will be about the Starship Excalibur, captained by a woman. The series is supposed to be set in the same time period as DS9 and will be screened in America in the autumn of 1994.

The press has had some fun with this news. Headlines include:

"Star Trek goes where no woman has gone before" Daily Express

"Beam me up Dotty" Daily Star

STAR TREK on BBC/ITV

Star Trek screening dates.

Ep.	Title	Date Shown
47	Obsession	14/7/93
36	Wolf in the Fold	21/7/93
42	Trouble With Tribbles	28/7/93
46	Gamesters of Triskelion	4/8/93
	STII: Wrath of Khan	7/8/93
49	A Piece of the Action	11/8/93
	STIII: Search for Spock	14/8/93
48	The Immunity Syndrome	18/8/93
45	A Private Little War	25/8/93
51	Return to Tomorrow	1/9/93
52	Patterns of Force	8/9/93
50	By Any Other Name	15/9/93
54	The Omega Glory	22/9/93

After this there is a break for tennis and golf.

Viewing figures are averaging 4.2 million according to TV Zone 43. Quantum Leap is BBC 2's most popular cult show at the moment, hitting a high of 5.83 million and averaging 4.2 million.

On BBC 1 Star Trek II had 6.48 million viewers and Star Trek III had 6.61 million viewers. This ranked the films as number 3 and number 1 in the top ten films of the

week.

STAR TREK VII

Berman, who will executive-produce the film, has actually written two storylines and hired separate teams of screenwriters to develop them. Whichever script Paramount green-lights will go before the cameras in April '94 and arrive in the theatres the following Christmas. "And if both scripts work out well," says Berman, "we've got fodder for the eighth movie."

Though each film will include original Trek players, Berman says one script involves "the entire group in both a prologue and other elements of the film." The other has roles for only some of the vets, including William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy. One features a major role for Whoopi Goldberg. Thus far, however, everything's on a handshake.

"I've spoken to Bill, Leonard, and Whoopi, and they're all enthusiastic, but we must wait until a script is done and approved," notes Berman, who says it's possible that Nimoy will also direct. info TV Guide July 24-30, 1993.

When asked whether they were still planning to start shooting the Next Generation feature film in April, Berman said, "Yes, that is still the plan. The script that was written by Brannon Braga and Ron Moore has been given to the studio. Paramount is very pleased with it. The other script should be completed shortly. Info STOF 93.

STAR TREK THE NEXT GENERATION

Sky One completed their screening of 6th season TNG on August 16th with Timescape. They have decided not to screen Descent. On the 17th they started their third showing of TNG from Encounter at Farpoint. Sky are currently negotiating to secure the viewing rights to the 7th season.

TNG 7th season did well on Sky with some episode viewing figures totalling over 1

million, beating the Simpsons.

According to Richard Arnold *all* members of the cast have signed for the 7th season. It is planned for the 7th season to be the last, TNG will then go into movies.

ST:TNG - 7TH SEASON

Star Trek: The Next Generation.
Season 7 Broadcast Schedule.
Compiled By Edwin Yau.

Date = Date of satellite uplink.

Episode List-

Date	Episode & Title
18/09/93	#253 Descent, part 2
25/09/93	#254 Liasons
02/10/93	#255 Interface
09/10/93	#256 Gambit, part 1
16/10/93	#257 Gambit, part 2
23/10/93	#258 Phantasms

A Short Episode Synopsis:-

#253 Descent, part 2: Riker discovers Hugh and a renegade Borg group and joins up with them to fight the Borg that have captured Picard, Troi and Geordi. It is revealed that Lore has promised the Borg to rid them of their remaining vestiges of flesh. In the end, dozens of Borg will be left on a deserted planet, and how they evolve will be revealed in an episode later on in the season.

#254 Liasons: Aliens come on board the Enterprise and take Picard to visit a planet which wishes to join the Federation, but they crash on a planet on the way there and Picard is taken into care by a supposedly female nurse, whom he falls in love with.

#255 Interface: Geordi explores a starship discovered in the thick atmosphere of a planet via a virtual-reality probe. His mother, a missing-in-action starship captain will appear (played by the captain of the Saratoga in Star Trek 4). Ben Vereen will play his father.

#256 Gambit, part 1: Start of a Worf 2 part

episode, which will follow the repercussions of Kahless from the episode "Rightful Heir" in season 6, who is trying to restore honour to the Klingon Empire. Both Caitlin Brown (from the DS9 episode "The Passenger") and Robin Curtis (Saavik in Star Trek 3 and 4) will play Romulans in this episode.

#257 Gambit, part 2: In part 2, James Worthy of the Los Angeles Lakers will play the Klingon, Koral.

#258 Phantasms: Patrick Stewart will direct his 4th episode.

Other News:-

Season 7 of TNG started production on 1 July and should end in the last week of March. The TNG movie is slated to begin production a week later and Paramount have already booked around 2400 theatres for the Christmas week of 1994 for the premiere of the movie.

Classic Trek fans will be pleased to know that the producers plan to bring yet another of the original cast into the 24th century. William Shatner is said to have asked for \$5 million to do so, but it is most likely to be either George Takei, Nichelle Nichols or Walter Koenig, who is recovering steadily from his recent heart attack.

After the small fiasco last time regarding Arnold Schwarzenegger as an alien captain in TNG, it is said that he is still on the cards to do an episode as a background character for fun.

Denise Crosby may return as the alternate time-line Tasha. It has been said that the Romulan character Sela has been executed. Michelle Forbes (Ensign Ro Laren) will not be returning to TNG, but one of the characters from "Tapestry" will return.

Finally, Whoopi has approached the producers about having a 600th birthday party for Guinan, where all her children from around the galaxy will come together, and there is a Wes-oriented show in development.

STAR TREK DEEP SPACE NINE

Deep Space Nine started its screening on Sky One on Sunday 15/8/93. It is being shown once a week. Emissary Pt 1 had 1.04 million viewers, putting it top of the satellite programmes. Emissary Pt 2 had 1.24 million viewers.

The dates so far are Aug: 15th, Emissary Part 1; 22nd, Emissary Part 2; 29th, Past Prologue. Sept: 5th, A Man Alone; 12th, Babel.

Despite rumours to the contrary, Avery Brooks has been picked up for the whole of the 2nd season. Info Rick Berman, TV Guide 24-30 July, 1993.

Star Trek:Deep Space Nine.
Season 2 Broadcast Schedule.
Compiled By Edwin Yau.

Date = Date of satellite uplink.

Episode List-

Date	Episode & Title	
26/09/93	#421	Homecoming (working title)
03/10/93	#422	The Circle (working title)
10/10/93	#423	The Siege (working title)
17/10/93	#424	Evasive Procedure (working title)
24/10/93	#425	Cardassians (working title)

A Short Episode Synopsis:-

#421 Homecoming: Part 1 of a three part episode where the Cardassians want DS9 back and it is discovered that they have broken treaty obligations by still having prison camps. O'Brien and Kira rescue an important Bajoran MIA and Kira discovers that the Bajoran provisional government is corrupt. She ends up relieved of duty and Sisko finds himself relieved of command! Guest stars Frank Langella.

#422 The Circle: Part 2 centres on Kira in the religious centre of Bajor. She finds herself caught up in the struggle of 3 clerics (of which 2 have appeared in last season's "In the Hands of the Prophets") to become Kai.

#423 The Siege: Part 3 involves major changes of Bajor's social, political and religious environment.

#424 Evasive Procedure: A Dax episode which will emphasize that the Jadzia host is just as important as the Dax "worm" in their symbiotic union. In this episode there will also be a close encounter with the Borg...

#425 Cardassians: An Odo episode.

Other News

The first season episode "Duet" will have repercussions in this season and there is rumour of Guinan having a son who will be a bartender working for Quark.

Finally, there is talk of seeing a female Ferengi on DS9. The question on most minds will be whether she is clothed or not, and if so, why?

MISC

• Emmy Nominations for Star Trek. Comics Buyer's Guide #1033 Sept 3, 1993.

ST:TNG - 5 nominations. Costuming for a series; hairstyling for a series; makeup for a series; sound editing for a series; Sound mixing for a series.

DS9 - 6 nominations. Art Direction for a series; hairstyling for a series; makeup for a

series; main title theme music, sound editing for a series; Sound mixing for a drama series.

• "Beam me up says Arnie" Daily Record 17/8/93. Article saying Arnie Schwarzenegger is interested in appearing in TNG.

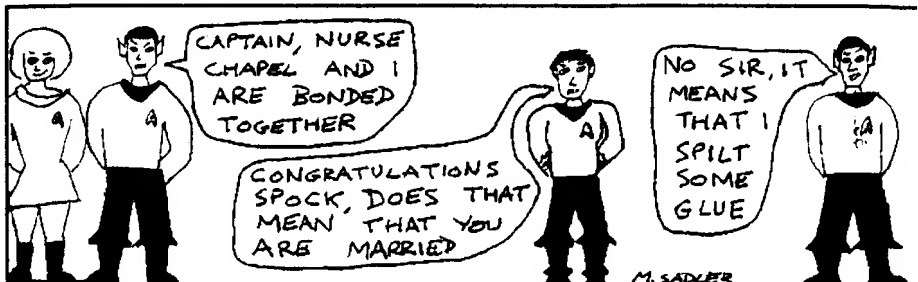
• "Trekkies Join the Soap War" Daily Sport, 7/9/93. Telly bosses are planning to go where no soap opera has gone before. The makers of ST:TNG want to set a weekly drama on the planet, Klingon. It will beam in the lives and loves of Captain Kirk's arch enemies. And a studio insider said: "It will be just like Dallas and Dynasty, but the stars won't be quite so glamorous." The new show will be a huge departure from the usual Star Trek formula. It will feature the bald-headed "baddies" as allies of Capt. Picard, Kirk's successor at the helm of the Enterprise. And the producers have promised plenty of out-of-this-world sex scenes.

Next Generation chief Ron Moore, said, "We are also looking at the possibility of a Star Trek series totally about Klingons. It's an outer-space soap that will look and feel different from all the rest.

[Janet - Before any of you get up in arms, remember this was printed in the Daily Sport]

• To celebrate the launch of DS9 on video, CIC held a press party at London's Planet Hollywood. Dave Lee Travis was there amongst the Vulcans, Romulans, Ferengi and Bajorans. Screenings at the event include the episode, The Passenger, which received a very favourable response. Info Starburst 181

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Star Trek IN THE NEWS



compiled by Janet Quarton

The purpose of this column is to let you know which magazines to look out for as well as letting you know some of what has been printed in the papers. Most magazines are available from the book shops in the info sheets and you can often get back issues of newspapers if you write to the publisher.

- **STARLOG 193** August 1993. Includes an article on Christopher Lloyd who played Kruge in ST III.

- **STARLOG 194** September 1993. Includes articles on Timothy de Haas who wrote the TNG episode Identity Crisis; Brian Bonsell, who plays Alexander, Worf's son; Jon Dugan who wrote Return to Tomorrow.

- **STARLOG 195** October 1993. Articles include: David Mattingly, who painted the covers for the re-issued Star Trek Logs series by Alan Dean Foster; Readers' 25 favourite TNG episodes; Michael Pillar reviews missions past and present.; Roy Brocksmith who played Sima Kolrami in the TNG episode Peak Performance.

- **TV ZONE 45** August 1993. Includes an article on Gabrielle Beaumont, the only British female director in Hollywood. She is the only woman to have ever directed Star Trek; she direct the TNG episodes Booby Trap, The High Ground, Suddenly Human, Disaster, Imaginary Friend & Face of the Enemy.

- **TV ZONE Special #10** - Earth Invasion Special. Contains an article on the TNG episode Conspiracy.

• ST:TNG POSTER BOOKS

Issue 49 - Article on Warp Drive, plus episode guides to The Host and The Mind's Eye.

Issue 50 - Article on Klingons, plus episode guides to In Theory and Redemption.

Issue 51 - Season Four Roundup, plus episode guides to Redemption II and Darmok.

Issue 52 - Article on Klingon War, plus episode guides to Ensign Ro and Silicon Avatar.

Issue 53 - Article on TNG and DS9 on Sky, plus episode guides to Disaster and The Game.

- **STARBURST 179** July 1993. Includes an interview with Patrick Stewart, plus readers' poll results for 1992. Best UK Television 1992 - ST-TNG 1st 32.3% , Star Trek Classic 4th 7.1%. Best US Television 1992 - ST:TNG 40.1%.

- **STARBURST 180** August 1993. Includes an interview with Gerritt Graham who plays the Hunter in the DS9 episode, Captive Pursuit.

- **STARBURST 181** September 1993. Includes an article on a DS9 press event at Paramount.

- **ST THE OFFICIAL FAN CLUB 92** July/August 1993. Includes interviews with Rene Auberjonois, who plays Odo in DS9; and TNG director, Brannon Braga; articles about the Creation Con in Pasadena; The Star Trek Earth Tour Exhibit which is touring Paramount Parks in the States; Operation: Trek Rec Deck - the story about how the Star Trek Association of Towson are raising money to decorate the rec deck of the USS Enterprise (the aircraft carrier) with Star Trek memorabilia.

- **ST THE OFFICIAL FAN CLUB 93** Sept/Oct 1993. Includes articles on: the weekly Star Trek newspaper column; UFP Law, new TNG and DS9 season update by Rick Berman and Michael Pillar; interview with Jonathan Del Arco, I Borg.

• **ST: THE NEXT GENERATION 25** (Starlog) Articles on Brent Spiner, Marina Sirtis, Jonathan Frakes, Gates McFadden, LeVar Burton, Brian Alan Lane, Kurt Michael Bensmiller, Worley Thorne & John Whelpley plus Mission Reports on the episodes: Ship in a Bottle, Aquiel, Face of the Enemy, Tapestry, Birthright I & II, Starship Mine, Lessons, The Chase, Frame of Mind, Suspicions, Rightful Heir, Second Chances, Timescape & Descent.

• **ST DEEP SPACE NINE 4** (Starlog) Episode reports on Dax, The Passenger, Move Along Home, The Nagus, Vortex, Battle Lines, The Storyteller, Progress, If Wishes were Horses, The Foresaken, Dramatis Personae, Duet and In the Hands of the Prophets.

• **UK OFFICIAL ST FAN CLUB Vol 1 No 1** Summer 1993. Includes articles on DS9; Siddig el Fadil; Michael Westmore, makeup supervisor.

• **CINEFANTASTIQUE Vol 24 Nos 3/4** October 1993. Includes 72 pages on TNG 6th season and 24 pages on DS9. Articles include Rick Berman; The Making of Relics; Michael Pillar; TNG Heading for the Big Screen; Jeri Taylor, Script Supervisor; Chain of Command; Brent Spiner on Data; The Acting Ensemble; John de Lancie; Alien Makeups; Freelance Submissions; The Making of Tapestry; Second Chances; Ron Moore and Brannon Braga; Stephen Hawking; Marina Sirtis; Rene Echevarria, writer; The Making of Birthright; Naren Shankar, staff writer; Special Visual Effects; Composers; DS9; Quark; Shooting on the Space Station; Odo; A Day on the Set; Creating the pilot; Major Kira; Effects; Designing Aliens; The Wormhole.

• Mork from Ork Joins the Enterprise CNN Headline News 19/7/93. Robin Williams will definitely be joining the cast of STNG for an episode. Rick Berman says that he wants a substantial part for Robin. Other actors who have expressed interest in taking part are Jason Alexander, Dana Garvey (Wayne's World), Christopher Lloyd and country singer Lyle Lovett.

• "Hing On, Is That a Klingon?" Evening Times 17/8/93. Centre spread about KAG, Scotland.

• "Beam me up for the Fair" Glasgow Evening Times 19/7/93. Article about Nichelle Nichols at Contagion.

• "Trek to Inner Space" Scotsman. A lengthy article, mainly about Contagion but also discussing fandom in general. It is nice to see conventions described sensibly.

• "Star Trek's Final Frontier?" TV & Satellite Weekly 14/8/93. General article about DS9.

• "Voices from outer space" The Guardian 14/8/93. Article about Klingon language, mentioning that 250,000 copies of the Klingon Dictionary and 50,000 copies of a cassette course, Conversational Klingon, have been sold.

• "K9 call for Klingon Capers" Glasgow Extra 19/8/93. Members of KAG Scotland beamed down in full Klingon costume to help at the grand reopening of the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals in Pollokshaws Road.

• "Trekkies make space for a pizza" Dundee Courier. 23/8/93. Lorraine Kelley and some Star Trek fans were at the Pizza Hut Star Trek launch. Lorraine was pictured with three Klingons.

• "Trek fans beamed down to Shropshire" Shropshire Star 30/8/93. A nice article about Holodeck, pointing out that most fans are not loonies. There was also a short piece in the previous day's paper.

• "Thrills & Chills in 'Star Trek' Spectacular" National Enquirer. This is a detailed storyline for Descent Pt II, which we believe is 90% accurate.

☆☆☆☆☆



MERCHANDISE



compiled by Janet Quarton

• BOOKS

- CAPTAIN'S LOGS** by Edward Goss & Mark A. Altman. Boxtree £12.99. Episode guide and trivia, from Menagerie through 5th season TNG. Includes 12 pages of coloured photos.
- Aug **BLOODLETTER** by K.W. Jeter. (DS9 3) Pocket Books The Cardassians are planning to construct a base on the other side of the wormhole. It falls to the crew of DS9 to set up a Federation base there. (UK October)
- Sep **STAR TREK LIVES** by J Lichtenberg, S Marshak and J Winston.
- GUISES OF THE MIND** by Rebecca Neason. (TNG 27) Capulon IV is ready to join the Federation - all that remains is the ruler's coronation and the signing of the treaty. However, when the Enterprise arrives with a group of women from a religious order, they find only deceit and treachery. Troi is captured and an imposter is about to accede to the throne.
- Oct **THE GREAT STARSHIP RACE** by Diana Carey. (ST 67) Pocket Books When the people of the planet Gullrey invite ships to participate in the first starship race, Kirk and the Enterprise enter on behalf of the Federation. But the fun quickly comes to an end when the Romulans crash the race.
- THE BIG GAME** by Sandy Schofield (DS9 4) Pocket Books. When Quark holds a poker tournament on DS9, representatives from almost every sentient race shows up. Then one player is killed. (UK November)
- BEST DESTINY** by Diane Carey. ST Giant Novel Pocket Books At 16 a young James Kirk is trouble and estranged from his family. However, a trip into space with his father and Captain Robert April changes Kirk's life forever. (UK November)
- LINE OF FIRE** - Starfleet Academy 2 by Peter David
- Nov **THE PRICE OF THE PHOENIX** by Sondra Marshak & Myrna Culbreath.
- THE NIT-PICKERS GUIDE for NEXT GENERATION TREKKERS** (Phil Ferrand) £7.99
- Dec **HERE THERE BE DRAGONS** by John Peel 12th (TNG 28)
- DARK MIRROR** by Diane Duane. (TNG HB)
- Jan **THE STARLESS WORLD** (ST)
- ## • VIDEO UPDATE - ST:TNG & DS9
- TNG** Aquiel/Face of the Enemy (70)
To Come:
 Tapestry/The Birthright, Part 1
 The Birthright, Part 2/Starship Mine
 Lessons/The Chase
 Frame of Mind/Suspicious
 Rightful Heir/Second Chances
 Timescape/Descent
- DS9** Emissary
 Past Prologue/A Man Alone
 Babel/Captive Pursuit
 Q Less/Dax
 The Passenger/Move Along Home
- To Come
 The Nagus/Vortex
 Battle Lines/Storyteller
 Progress/If Wishes Were Horses
 The Forsaken/Dramatis Personae
 Duet/Hands of the Prophets
- ## • AUDIO TAPES
- November - **Power Klingon** by Marc Okrand,
Imzadi by Peter David, **Faces of Fire** by Michael Jan Friedman, **Best Destiny** by Diane Carey, **STVI** by J M Dillard.
- December - **Dark Mirror** by Diane Duane.
- ## • THE STAR TREK WATCH.
- Franklin Mint have brought out the 25th Anniversary Star Trek Watch. Crafted in high-tech stainless steel, emblazoned with the image and DELTA emblem of the USS Enterprise. Complete with a precise Swiss quartz

movement and a sleek leather strap. Price £175. Franklin Mint, Bramley Road, London SE6 2XG.

• **THE STAR GALAXY GLOBE.** Franklin Mint have brought out a globe re-creating The Tholian Web. The Enterprise is set in the globe, backed by the web and being circled by two Tholian ships. It is crafted in pewter with gold accents. When you start the motor, glitter swirls. Price £195. Franklin Mint, Bramley Road, London SE6 2XG.

• All the Playmates TNG action figure first series are available in Woolworths Great Toy sale at just £4.99 each (incl Deanna Troi). I have noted 2 distinctly different backing cards - one in English and one in Spanish/French; the latter are non character specific, the separate character info being a large sticker affixed to the bottom half of the back of the card. Info Chris Coxon.

• Virgin are selling a video tape entitled Forty Years of Science Fiction TV (in VHS). Most of it is mundane early offerings - but - it does have the Classic Trek blooper compilations. It lasts several minutes (the interesting bit) but costs £8.95. Seeing as their main selling pitch is the bloopers it's rather steep. The rest of the programme lasts about another 25 minutes and is by necessity patchy and thin in its coverage of such a massive field. Info Chris Coxon.

• Malibu Comics will release ST:DS9 #1 in August. Mike W. Barr, a veteran of ST comics, will write, and Gordon Purcell and Terry Pallot will draw the series. The story, Stowaway, is a two-parter which concludes in issue #2. The new monthly comic-book series features original stories based on the DS9 TV series. Info C.B.G. #1030 Aug 93.

☆☆☆☆



CAST & CREW NEWS



compiled by Janet Qarton

• **William Shatner** - A number of British papers have published articles about Bill writing his memoirs and his discovering that he wasn't liked by some of the other actors. See an extract from the original TV Guide article elsewhere in the newsletter.

My Star Trek Memories by William Shatner will be available soon.

• **Leonard Nimoy** directed Holy Matrimony with Patricia Arquette & Joseph Lovett, which was filmed in Great Falls, MT. Leonard insists the movie will be a "funny, touching story." "I have never been able to capture that kind of world I would call a John Ford epic landscape," Nimoy said of Montana. He calls the movie a "comedy of bonding" between a young man and woman. Info Bjo's STC & The Vindicator, 6/7/93.

• **DeForest Kelley** - "Over the years Kelley's "Treks" have taken him to conventions

worldwide, earned him a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame, enabled him to forge enduring friendships with his co-stars and many fans and given him the opportunity to place his hands and feet in the cement at Mann's Chinese Theater...

While awaiting word on "Trek VII", Kelley is relaxing at home with his wife, Caroline, and their 85 year-old pet turtle, Myrtle. "I've always thought it nice to have something around that's a little older than Carolyn and me", jokes Kelley, who spends much of his free time raising funds for animal-related causes. He also writes poetry.

"At conventions I read some of my poems. They're a mix of comedy and truth. I always come back to what everyone is doing now.

"I talk about Leonard (Nimoy) and his directing. Bill (Shatner) is riding horses and hosts "Rescue 911" so he's in heaven.

"So what's with Kelley? He's still in the valley with the very same wife! In

September it will be 47 big years."
High Trek Chicago Tribune 16/7/93.

- **Nichelle Nichols** sold an untitled SF novel about a "woman of colour" in an interstellar civilization to Susan Allison at Ace. While the novel will not be part of the Star Trek series, it was influenced by the Uhura character - as well as by the title character in Robert A Heinlein's Friday, which (according to the publicity release) Heinlein based on Nichols herself. Info Locus #392, Aug 93.

Nichelle was interviewed on Radio 4 early in August.

- **James Doohan** "After almost 20 years, he still beams us up" International UFO Library Magazine July 93. 2 page article on James Doohan and his career. Jimmy and his wife have had a house built in Washington State and are putting their San Fernando Valley home up for sale.

- "What Kirk's Crew Is Up To" TV Guide 24-30 July 1993. **Walter Koenig** has created a hit comic book series, and he is peddling "Alien in Wonderland, a Python-esque sci-fi sitcom that would reunite James Doohan (as the owner of an outer space nightclub), George Takei (as his maitre d') and Nichelle Nichols (as the resident chanteuse). Koenig himself will play "a failed comic who goes from nightclub to nightclub across the galaxy.

Nichelle Nichols has been writing her biography, "Beyond Uhura" and she is polishing a one-woman show in which she impersonates legendary divas such as Lena Horne, Eartha Kitt, and Billie Holliday. **James Doohan** has a book deal with Pocket Books.

DeForest Kelley is talking about his autobiography prospects, but... "It would involve a tremendous amount of digging and research," sighs Kelley. "And I'd have to go out to the garage..."

All seven 'Trek' classic actors recently filmed an MCI "Friends & Family" commercial slated to be broadcast in the U.S. in August.

William Shatner and **Leonard Nimoy** will produce and direct a limited series about a virtual-reality game for ABC called "Deadly Game".

The supporting players depend largely on the

movie sequels for financial stability. And James Doohan feels even that's been jeopardized by the multi-million-dollar salaries that Shatner and Nimoy commanded for STVI. "Bill and Leonard absolutely get paid too much money for what they do," says Doohan. "Unless they change their price structure, I don't see how we can all be part of number seven."

- **Patrick Stewart** - "Captain Charisma" TV & Satellite Week 17-23 July, 1993. Patrick talks mainly about his background and other roles he played before Picard. Also about what its like to direct, including how he directed A Fistful of Datas.

"Star Trek captain: Cops grabbed me as terror suspect" National Enquirer 20/7/93. Patrick Stewart was in London on June 26th. He was jogging in Green Park just after 6.00 am. when he was stopped by police who told him that a man fitting his description had been observed placing suspicious packages in a rubbish container near Clarence House. Patrick didn't have any ID on him as he was wearing only jogging shoes, a T-shirts and shorts. He was saved from arrest when one of the policemen recognised him as Captain Picard. *[Some British papers also carried this story.]*

- **Marina Sirtis** - When DS9 debuted last January, much of the media coverage devoted to the new series focussed on the strong female characters. Marina seethed - especially when reporters asked her to comment on the seemingly sudden influx of "strong" women on Star Trek. "I wanted to punch their lights out," Sirtis says by phone from her Los Angeles home. "To me, strength is a character thing and Troi is a very strong person. She doesn't yell or get angry often, but that doesn't mean she's not strong."

Sirtis says she is both excited and sad about going back to work for the seventh and final season. "We're going off to make our movies and I'm excited about that. But speaking for myself, I could go on." Info High Trek 13/8/93.

- **Siddig El Fadil** - "It's life Jim, but not as I knew it" 7/8/93. Sid plays the "Bones" of

DS9, Dr Julian Bashir. He says: "It's like a fairy-tale come true. I am still bewildered. One minute I was in Tooting, up to my ears in debt and working as a waiter, the next I was starring in a major series. I feel like I'm on Cloud Nine, never mind Deep Space Nine".

Rick Berman spotted him on an obscure TV station. Sid was playing a Middle Eastern prince in the British TV drama *A Dangerous Man: Lawrence of Arabia*.

Siddig gets his exotic surname from his Sudanese father. He was born in Africa but raised in by his English mother in the UK.

• **Armin Shimerman** enjoys the fact that most people don't recognise him as Quark. "Even when I'm at Paramount, walking with Jonathan Frakes or LeVar Burton, people smile and wave at them. That recognition is wonderful if you enjoy it, but I've always liked my anonymity."

DS9 is not Shimerman's first venture into the Trek universe. He appeared, uncredited, as the wedding box in the TNG episode, *Haven*. He also portrayed the first ever Ferengi in *The Last Outpost* and another Ferengi in *Peak Performance*.

Shimerman says he is looking forward to another year of Trekking but doesn't want to peer to far ahead. "The idea of seven years in one role, like the Next Generation actors have done, is, to be honest, a little daunting," he says. "I'm sure it'll be mostly a blessing, but it may also have down sides. Right now, though, I'm ready and excited about a second year of DS9." Info High Trek 27/8/93.

• **Dennis McCarthy**, composer for TNG and DS9, joined Next Gen in 1987 after a varied career in music. Star Trek is not McCarthy's first science-fiction work. He scored the second "V" mini-series (*V: The final Battle*) in 1984 and worked on the V series for a year.

McCarthy believes the music helps set the tone for each series. DS9 is dark. "There's continuous tension and that's reflected in the rumbling music," he says. "By comparison, Next Generation is idyllic, which is why we use so much classical-sounding music."

"It takes four to seven days of writing and five hours in a recording studio with up to 52 musicians to create the 10 to 27 minutes of music needed for each episode," McCarthy

says.

The results can be impressive - as evidenced by McCarthy's four Emmy nominations plus the Best Music Score Emmy he won in 1992 for the Next Gen episode *Unification, Part 2*. Info High Trek, 6/8/93.

The following info is extracted from Bjo Trimble's Space Time Continuum, July/August 1993. See zine ads for ordering details.

• **Walter Koenig** suffered a heart attack at 2 a.m., Sunday morning July 29, while guesting at Dreamwerks Convention in the Chicago area. Hospitalized in Evanston, Illinois, he underwent heart surgery, with no complications. His wife, Judy Levitt, was at his side as soon as she could get there. Walter is home now and doing well. He missed the Babylon 5 shooting schedule and cancelled some convention appearances. Don't send flowers or gifts, but cards are welcome. P.O. Box 4395, North Hollywood, CA 91607, U.S.A.

• **William Shatner** - Tek War started filming in Canada as of July 12th.

• **James Doohan** - Help get his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Contributions to: Trek Talk Ent., Scotty's Star, POB 7401-725, Studio City, CA 91604, USA.

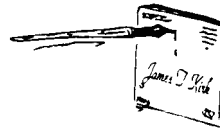
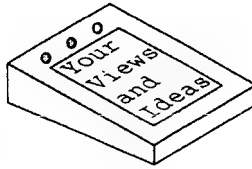
• **George Takei** presented NSTA/Toshiba Awards in June. He will narrate the bio of the late Bruce Lee.

• **Patrick Stewart** presented TV Critics' American Television Awards, he was 1st runner-up for Best Dramatic Actor.

• **Jonathan Frakes** returns to "North & South, Book III" for Warner Bros.

• **LeVar Burton** hosts 10-yr-old series PBS series "Reading Rainbow". It won a Daytime Emmy for Best Children's Programme.

• **Nana Visitor** was a finalist for Best Supporting Actress, Drama, in TV Critic's American TV Awards.



We welcome your letters of comment and discussion for this section on the understanding that they will be printed and may be edited for length or content at our discretion.

Some pointers: When referring to anything in a previous n/l make it clear what you are talking about for those who do not have that newsletter.

Keep your letters as short as possible - a maximum of 700-750 words or one of 'our' pages. If you find this impossible consider whether you should be writing an article instead. Longer letters will be edited for length. Where more than one person responds to a question with similar answers we may edit out some of these just so that we can get more in the newsletter.

We encourage active discussion, but please try to avoid negative and aggressive letters. If you make a request which requires members to write to you please give your address.

Keep letters on a separate sheet from other submissions and put 'for postbag'.

Sheila Clark - Dundee

To Michael Farquhar - Re Starfleet pay - there isn't much you can spend your hard-earned on in space, so I'd guess their pay will go straight into their bank, and any time they need to spend anything (like at a Starbase) they'll use hand prints linked to their bank in much the same way as you can use Switch or Delta today. You don't *have* to have pockets to carry your hands around.

To Dave Smith - One thing that fascinates me in Trek is the assumption that most planets will have a world government and only one set of leaders for the Federation to negotiate with. I suppose the analogue would be for aliens visiting Earth to negotiate with the United Nations?

he wouldn't feel grief. I'm sure he would. At the risk of repeating myself, what I can't understand is his declared feeling of *guilt* - he had done everything he could *according to the medical knowledge available to him*. He had nothing to feel guilty about. I can even understand that he might feel *inadequate* because he was helpless to do anything - but a feeling of guilt isn't quite the same as a feeling of inadequacy, and he would feel that about the death of *anyone* in his care.

To Edward Woo & Ann Peters - Re the Salt Vampire. When it killed Nancy, there must have been a plentiful supply of salt tablets, so the instinct for survival wasn't in question then and it does seem to imply that salt alone wasn't enough to satisfy hunger. It could have got the trace nutrients it needed when it killed her, but 'now' was hungry for more, and it got those from Darnell and Green. If the Enterprise had arrived a few days later, they might have found only the creature, with nobody present to provide it with an image of anyone, because it had killed Crater out of that hunger. (Or they might have found a young 'Nancy', as the creature changed into her again in response to McCoy's thoughts. The others wouldn't have known the appearance of either Crater or Nancy, and therefore couldn't have given it an image to copy.)

A general point - from the TNG episode Sarek, people keep quoting Picard as saying he met Sarek at Spock's wedding. Not necessarily. As I recall, he said he met Sarek at *his son's* wedding. That son doesn't have to be Spock - how long had Sarek been married to Perrin, and did he have another son by Perrin? Presumably there was no other older half brother or Spock would have told Kirk in ST V, but there could well have been a younger one who was born after the Sybok affair.

Re McCoy's father's death. I never said

To Kevin Thomas - Re which movie is

best/worst. I found ST II the most contrived, because it was totally dependent on the holes in the plot for its development. Plug any one hole and the story was up a gum tree. For starters, the wrong planet was destroyed if the one Khan was on was to be mistaken for one of the others. The planet was made far, far too hostile - Khan's group couldn't have survived there fourteen weeks, let alone fourteen years; for the one surviving native species to be a parasite that was able to survive by preying on an alien species... And because I couldn't believe that Khan's group could survive, ST II is for me the weakest of the movies.

Ewan Chalmers - New Elgin

To Dave Styles - Re size of TNG Starfleet. Perhaps an explanation for the severe loss Starfleet appeared to suffer is that despite having X number of ships, they also have many standard missions to provide for, eg diplomatic escorts, monitoring border outposts, etc. This means that although the loss of 40 ships might not be considered too serious, it would mean a serious strain on Starfleet's routine missions, leaving less time for R & R, refits, etc. Also consider the personnel lost here. Most of the crew lost have the potential, however slightly, to reach the higher echelons of Starfleet Command; therefore the loss of - say - five hundred potential Captains or First Officers is indeed a great loss.

To Keren Breen - Re ST novels not being 'official' Trek. I don't know what others feel, but I have a tendency to accept them despite knowing they are not 'official'. Anyway else feel the same?

Tina Baker - Leicester

I'm enjoying my first newsletter. It's nice to know there are others out there as fanatical as I am.

To Rebekah Owens - As a fellow Dataholic I enjoyed reading your letter. I wish I was back at school! But I must say 'Hands off!' - I saw him first! However, I could always get Lore to change his wicked ways.

Not wanting to sound an idiot, but

who's Richard Arnold? And is he a reliable source when he states that all cast members have signed for the 7th season?

[Sheila - In brief, Richard worked in the Star Trek office until Gene died, at which point the office was closed, leaving only the production office; since then he has been a consultant. He is regularly in and out of the Trek offices and sound stages and probably knows more about what is going on than almost anyone else, except possibly Guy Vardaman, a TNG extra who also worked in the Trek office. Although they don't give away studio secrets when they attend cons, anything either one does say re casting, etc, is definitely reliable.]

Can anyone tell me how to go about getting a signed photograph of Brent Spiner? *[Janet: Try writing to him at Paramount Pictures Corporation, 5555 Melrose Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90038, USA. Enclose a couple of International Reply Coupons.]*

Marta Galtarossa - Italy

I have just finished reading my first newsletter and I really must say that it is wonderful - I enjoyed it very much. I confess that I didn't imagine it being so interesting, full of news, interviews and so on. I also like the Postbag, because members can share their opinions or ask questions or anything else in it.

I'm also seeking help. I'm Italian, and I can watch Star Trek and ST:TNG only thanks to satellite TV (Sky One) - TNG is not available *at all* here (not to mention DS9!) Unfortunately, from September 1st this won't be possible any more because Sky is going to scramble everything, including Sky One and Sky News. Having to pay for watching good programmes seems reasonable enough to me, but the problem is they don't accept subscriptions from people outside the UK. I have some English friends living here and they can't subscribe either because they live abroad. We phoned Sky to be told (politely) that they don't care about English-speaking people outside the UK, and even the channels we now see unscrambled are to be considered illegal. (At the same time they avoided answering a question about why the programme Talkback, which invites *all*

viewers to phone them, *provides a telephone number for people calling from the rest of Europe* if we are not supposed to watch it from outside the UK.) They said they might change some rules but it will depend on how many requests they receive.

All I ask is for other members to phone Sky (the number I called is 0506 660000) - or write (unfortunately I don't know the address) telling them that even the rest of Europe should be allowed to subscribe and see at least some of their channels (such as Sky One). Maybe they will receive enough requests that they will do something (and I can continue watching Star Trek!)

[Janet: Logic would dictate that Sky would be quite happy to sell subscriptions outside the UK if they could. At the moment they are unable to do this for copyright reasons.]

Lesley Arrowsmith - Cusop, Herts

To Sue Jones and Taruka Quauhtezcatl - I noticed you talking about embroidery in NL 27. I get 'Needlecraft' magazine, and recently in the Reader to Reader Column, there have been several queries about ST embroidery charts. Do you, or anyone else, know if there are any charted designs on the market?

To Elaine Webb - Re Klingons wearing red. It's not canonical, but in one of the novels (I forget which) it was stated that Klingons couldn't see the colour red - they saw it as black - so maybe they think they're being all sinister...

Incidentally, John Dalton, the scientist, was colour blind. He was also a devout Quaker. He scandalised the congregation when he turned up in a bright red suit, which he thought was black.

Jo Christodoulides - Reading

To Bjo Trimble - I think it would be a great idea for you to come to a British con. Take note, con committees!

About cliques - I love meeting other fans whatever their age, so if you spot two Klingons with a Human tagging along, that's Helen White, Jim Redrup and me. (I'm the

Human, sometimes Bajoran or Vulcan.) Come and say hello. Don't worry - he may look fierce, but Jim won't bite - honest!

Re DS9 - I love it! Is anyone else a big Kira fan already? At long last, a strong female character who's believable. Hurray! I'm still not too happy with Sisko, but Jake and Nog are fun. Love Quark and Odo, the start of a beautiful 'hateship'?! Dr Bashir is great, though sometimes he makes me squirm with embarrassment. Dax is still a bit of an enigma, but I'm sure that will be sorted out when I see a few more episodes.

Re Star Trek bookmarks - here are 3 more ISBNs (International Standard Book Number). Enterprise NCC 1701-D, 0-7824-0854-0; Data, 0-7824-0854-0; and Picard, 0-7824-0832-X. The address on the back of them is Antioch Publishing Company, Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387, USA, but I'm sure there's a British distributor; I'll try and find out the address. I'm a bookseller, so if anyone has any queries about British or American books, I'll be happy to try and find any info. (My address is 33 Kendrick Rd, Reading, Berks RG1 5DU.)

To all those who haven't seen DS9 and have heard it's all dark and gloomy. Don't worry. I've seen about 7 episodes and although there are some darker elements in it, it's not by any means gloomy. In fact, in some places it's great fun. The character interaction, though a little slow in forming, is becoming as good as TNG, if not Classic Trek.

To Taruka Quauhtezcatl - How do you like my surname? It's longer than yours, but I have to admit that yours is really impressive. How do you pronounce it? (Mine's Greek Cypriot, by the way.)

To Helen White and committee - Being one of the privileged few who has read Helen's full Warp One report (it was 8 A4 typed pages long!) I feel it was a great shame to cut it. I do understand the constraints of space the committee has, but as I've told Helen, the only writers who make me laugh out loud are her good self and Terry Pratchett. *[Ed - We were very sorry to have*

to cut Helen's con report, and we do apologise to her for it; but as you say, it was forced on us by the constraints of space.]

Re the DS9 theme tune - At first I thought it wasn't appropriate, but I've got used to it now and think it's a beautiful atmospheric piece of music.

At the Seatrek Gala, Ron Darian (a comedian and Star Trek fan) actually managed to hum the theme and even sing silly verses to it. It was hilarious.

To Jacqueline Comben - I thoroughly enjoyed your article 'Hooked!' (on DS9), as I too was hooked from the first episode. Nothing is perfect, and every show has teething problems, but they're getting there.

By the way, has anyone else spotted Terry Farrell in an advert on TV for wash-in hair colour (I think?)

Stephen Shaw - Stockport

TV recently has seen quite a few faces from Star Trek, but The Night Stalker shown on BBC1 was almost a ST convention. (This TV movie led to the Kolchak TV series a couple of years later.) We had Stanley Addams (without any tribbles) meeting up with Elisha Cook (Cogley) and Barry Atwood (Surak). Not bad for one programme.

Westworld featured a familiar face in the bar room, a robot madam played by Majel Barrett-Roddenberry.

Eerie Indiana, after bringing back Gomez Adams as a series regular, brought in as guests Gardener Busby (My Favourite Martian) and a truly wicked salesman who did not quite change shape, played by Rene Thingy.

Keep watching!

Anne-Marie Flowers - Glasgow

I have a few problems other readers may be able to help me with. If the Federation had no contact with the Ferengi before The Last Outpost, bar the Battle of Maxia, how is it that they have synthehol on the Enterprise?

If holodeck creations can't exist beyond the exit door, why is Wesley dripping all over the corridor in Encounter at Farpoint and why is the Captain smeared with lipstick in The Big Goodbye (one of my all-time favourites, by the way).

How old is the Captain supposed to be? On one of my posters it gives his D.o.B. as 2305 which would make him 58 when he got the Enterprise. However, if he was on the Stargazer for 22 years then doing something else for 9 years (The Measure of a Man) this would make him only 27 when he was made Captain, which seems incredibly young.

[Sheila - According to the Star Trek Chronology, which is an authorised publication, Picard was born in 2305 and took command of the Enterprise in 2364. The Chronology only goes up to the end of season 5 (2368); the 6th season episodes are therefore set in 2369, making Picard 64 in the 6th season.]

I attended Contagion 93 and enjoyed every minute of it - well worth the money and everyone was extremely friendly. I was one of the people who sat and watched videos all the time. I have to agree that TNG peaked in seasons 3-4-5. I was shocked at the poor writing and direction of many of the later episodes. I was particularly annoyed with Rightful Heir and Suspicions - these stories seemed out of character for the people involved. On the other hand I enjoyed Timescape and Descent and I would have to say that The Chase is the best episode EVER! How nice to see a Scot on TNG (Maurice Roeses) - even if he was a Romulan!

To Paul Hulford - Re the PG rating of Chain of Command II, I don't think you're over-reacting. I also found the torture scenes harrowing and would have thought a '15' rating would have been in order.

Re fan and other fiction - I have read all the TNG novels and agree with Dawn Tittley that some of them leave a lot to be desired. My favourite author is Peter David and I particularly enjoyed A Rock and a Hard Place and Imzadi. I would also recommend John Vornholt's Masks, Michael Jan Friedman's

Reunion and Carmen Carter's The Devil's Heart. I have read only one zine and was a little disappointed, but I shall certainly try another one.

Alberto Gorin - Holland

I want to thank Tracy Saunders for the compliment. We try to work hard to be sweet to the girls.

I hate when fans compare movies from the 60s with today's. In the 60s, men were the heroes; today men and women are heroes. (Kirk is my favourite.)

Scott Rhodes - Rochdale

I would like to say how glad I am that I have joined IDIC. After receiving my first newsletter I have to say that I thoroughly enjoyed reading it.

To Dave Styles - Re what happened to transwarp drive. The transwarp drive was considered a failure after the original incident aboard the Excelsior. All further experiments were aborted. This is also supported in the Star Trek Chronology where it states that the ship was refitted with standard warp drive after the failure of transwarp drive.

Does anybody know where I can get a copy of The Devil's Heart NG book in paperback. I've looked everywhere but can't find a copy.

[Sheila - It may not be out in paperback yet. Try At the Sign of the Dragon, 131 Sheen Lane, East Sheen, London SW14 8AE; Sheffield Space Centre, 33 The Wicker, Sheffield; or Andromeda Bookshop, 84 Suffolk St, Birmingham. Send an A5 envelope with at least 24p in stamps for a catalogue - 28p to Sheffield, which carries a lot of memorabilia.]

In Disaster, why doesn't Troi just give the command to eject the engine core? This would rule out any chance of an explosion.

Lastly, is it my imagination or just before TNG Enterprise goes into warp at the end of the title sequence, does somebody move in the conference lounge at the top of the ship?

[Janet: According to Richard Arnold it

is Picard.]

Ian Colbert - Tile Cross

Re DS9. As a CT fan, I can say that the latest from Paramount makes TNG look like Shakespeare (ahem). They have one or two interesting characters; try not to copy CT and, this time, TNG - failing badly. Roll on the end of TNG. No new storylines (ah, so that's what they're supposed to be!); it'll be a contest between quantity TNG and quality CT.

As to HMS Lydia/HMS Sutherland (N/L 28, 29) they were both commanded by Hornblower.

I suggest (N/L 29 - Dave Styles) that every planet in the UFP would provide at least one heavy and two light ships. With a modest budget, for the mutual defence, you could amass a sizeable fleet. Dave, don't go by pennant numbers. US carrier Lincoln is CVN 72, but they only have 14.

Philip Morley - Fleetwood, Lancashire

To Neil Barrett - I think Guinan in Yesterday's Enterprise would have HAD to make herself there on the Enterprise. The reason she went on the Enterprise was to meet Picard (see Time's Arrow). Therefore, in whatever timeline, she would make herself get on the Enterprise. Anyway, what the hell, it was a brilliant episode.

To Liz Butler - I did not like Captain Jellico much. Did you know he did not say 'please' or 'thank you' once. However, I would agree with you, if I served under him, I would respect him.

I like Worf's ponytail. However, the general consensus (according to what I have read) is that most do not like it. Can I ask why? I thought there was nothing wrong with it. Most Klingons have long hair, so it's in Worf's culture that he should wear his hair long. There are many styles of long hair; plaited, natural, ponytail.

Is there anything wrong with disagreeing with Gene's vision of Trek? According to Richard Arnold, Gene would not have approved of the 6th season episode Lessons. I find myself wondering why? I

thought it was a brilliant episode. It captured Star Trek excellently. Picard fell in love with a crew member who had the same interests as him. Captain Kirk had a lot of relationships, so why shouldn't Picard?

Does anyone know anything about the Ferengi? I would really like to know what the scarf they wear around the back of their heads is called, and what is the significance of them wearing it? Why doesn't Quark wear one? [Ed: See *Armin Shimerman's talk elsewhere in the N/L.*]

Michael Sadler - Ellesmere Port

After finishing my analysis on the real purpose of Guinan's big hats, I am now concentrating my intellectual focus upon the question of - Is the racing driver Damon Hill really a Ferengi?

My initial results indicate that he is a Ferengi. His unfortunate mechanical failures have been tracked down to the use of substandard second-hand Romulan parts. Also there is his devious behaviour of wearing a helmet. I believe this is to hide his alien appearance from Starfleet personnel. I speculate his mission is to win enough trophies to be able to trade them for a car which is Fully Functional.

Lynettia Attwood - Tipton, W. Midlands

To Alex Pidd - Just another point to take into consideration regarding Marina's rather Americanised performance at warp One.

The whole American ethos is based upon money. You have it, or you don't. If you do, you have to make sure that you're either filthy rich or you can continue earning for virtually all of your life. Now unless you are a truly first class actor or actress you're not going to be around for very long. So it's a case of grab what you can for as long as you can, and this is what Marina is trying to do.

Forget her Greek/British history. She is now 'Americanised'. She owes virtually all her wealth to America, she married an American, she socialises with Americans, drives an American car and for all intents and purposes lives there. Therefore she is geared

to a basic, cringing 'Have a nice day' and 'I love you all' world. This is where her money comes from. Not here in Britain.

So if we try and drain ourselves of our self-importance for more than one minute we may just realise that we're not really important enough to change a 'well-rehearsed routine' that - let's face it - earns her plenty of dollars.

I don't know if you listened to Siddig while you were there, or even compared Marina to him, but Sid (a great British name, that) was great, he was still reasonably British, but this I fear will only be until he sorts out his 'act' and gears it towards the dollar sign. Let's face it, he doesn't know his right arm from his left as far as conventions go and that's why he was very 'British' and enjoyable to listen to. But give him a couple of years and he'll be 'loving us all' too. Shame, but true, I fear.

This letter is not meant to sound cynical. Warp One was my first convention (is 'con' not Americanised too?) and I really enjoyed it. The videos, events, dealers' room, extended opening hours... Three total strangers started conversations with me, which was wonderful, as I'm shy. But I also found the guests most entertaining and informative, and I must say that I'm looking forward to many more well rehearsed talks, but that's a secret!

Jim Redrup - Reading

To A C Harris - Re your query in N/L 28, I believe the person you are referring to is one Alexander T Greene whose address is 1 new Road, Bryntag, Wrexham, Clwyd, N Wales, LL11 6PB. He's also written a book called 901 Things to Say in Klingon!

To Neil Barrett - On the subject of leching, I have it on very good authority that Helen White is certainly not on the consenting adults list! And if you continue to think so, could I interest you in my Klingon Death Grip?

Jean Sloan - Liverpool

Jacque Comben's article 'Hooked' (N/L 29) analysed my feelings about DS9 exactly;

I too was hooked at once, and I am glad to hear Richard Arnold confirm what I have thought - that Gene Roddenberry would have approved of how it has developed. I saw Duet at Contagion; Captive Pursuit elsewhere; to me these episodes are Trek as it was meant to be.

- support
- clear and easy to read
- easier to conceal in another publication during boring meetings.
- looks more professional than A4 format, and that seems to be a particular issue at the moment.

Which brings me to the comments made by David Styles, disapproving of the mass circulation of illegal videos copied in the States. I really cannot get moral about this. If there were no illegal copies circulating, presumably I wouldn't get to see the latest episodes at cons. And I do question whether pirate videos really do reduce revenue for Paramount. As David points out, the quality of pirate tapes is usually inferior to CIC releases. I truly believe that people who are going to buy professional copies do so anyway. CIC are aware of the 'here's the latest episode' network and they tolerate it because they know their (Paramount's) product will sell well anyway.

To Helen White - Which Trek costume would I like? The costume Spock is wearing when he rejoins the ship in ST-TMP - so regal... Mind you, it wouldn't look regal on me! Which three characters would I like to be? The Traveller for one. I love the idea that space, time and thought are not separate. There are such possibilities... Then I'd like to be Guinan. I've always wanted to be wise... and to know Jean-Luc... Then perhaps I'd choose Vash. I'd develop my liaison with Q and get him to make me omnipotent; then I'd visit both Enterprises as a Mary Sue character and have an adventure with Spock and Data (not at the same time!)

To whomever started it -

Kira does it cantankerously
 Sisko does it seriously
 Bashir does it bashfully (boastfully?)
 Nog does it naughtily
 Odo does it oleagiously
 O'Brien does it often
 Quark does it for a profit.

I like the A5 format

- easy to handle
- will store on bookshelf, standing without

Nicole Comtet - France

To Stephen Shaw - Yes, fancy that the actor playing Odo is the same who in ST VI is revealed as the traitor who, disguised as a Klingon, is shot down by Scotty and ends up on the floor of Camp Khitomer Conference Hall. You have a problem with his name? Rene Auberjonois is a simple French name which is pronounced as it is written! Why don't you try 'RE-NAI O-BEAR-ZO-NOAH? That is a rough estimate of the correct pronunciation.

To Jacqueline Comben - A thousand thanks from a die-hard original Trek fan for your illuminating article on DS9, 'Hooked'. You have put into words my very thoughts, feelings and reactions regards TNG and DS9 - I have seen so far (at Contagion Con) 5.5 episodes of DS9, and if I am not totally hooked yet, I am in a fair way of being fascinated by the show, the base, the music and specially the characters. To me, nothing will replace the original Star Trek, nor Kirk, Spock & Co, but DS9 is the next best thing. As much as I intensely dislike TNG for the lack of special chemistry between the characters, for their constant imitation and use of Original Trek themes and even actors, as much I like DS9 because they are totally different and the characters are alive at least - Kira is wonderful, Odo, Dax, Quark etc, all are full of fascinating developments. The opening sequences, with the mysterious music and the close-in on the base are beautiful. I do hope that they won't spoil their show with cross-overs from TNG. Why should they? They can very well manage on their own. I am looking forward to many years of DS9. Let them live long and prosper.

Lesley Hatch - Warley W. Midlands

To Sheila Clark - I'm not in a position to answer the question of who built Vaal or why, but I don't think the natives would have thought their lives boring. They simply

wouldn't be aware of that concept. I suppose though that when the exploding rocks ran out, Vaal would 'die' and they would realise, when nothing drastic happened (such as floods or the failure of the fruit trees), that Vaal had nothing to do with this per se. Pam Baddeley's point about 'contraceptive substances... incorporated into the fruit' would then be borne out because, with Vaal no longer functioning, they would find themselves breeding at more regular intervals.

To Michael Farquhar - My understanding is that Starfleet paid its personnel in credits.

To James Shaw - The use of emergency transporters in case of an emergency when 'somewhere is blocked off' depends on which Trek you're watching. I don't think they had the capability to do this in Classic Trek, whereas in The Next Generation they do this all the time. Clearly the technology has advanced considerably so that this can be done.

To Kevin B Thomas - I too was disappointed with Star Trek VI. I don't know what it was about it, but it somehow didn't work for me. The only two films I've really liked are the Motion Picture and Star Trek II, which is my favourite also. I like my films to have a lot of action, and that certainly has it. Incidentally, Ricardo Montalban recently appeared in The Golden Palace on Channel 4, and does he look well!

To Ann Peters - I think one predominant factor in Klingon evolution would be the British bulldog. Next time you see one, take a look at *its* forehead...

Marysia Kolodziej - Troon

Well, I saw Descent a few weeks ago and I don't know if I can wait to see the second part. It was the only episode I saw at Contagion that got a round of applause - although I must say it isn't as good the second time around. This is because the best thing about it is the shock factor - Oh my God, he can't have said that!

I think Perrin is a Romulan spy who

married Sarek to get his money and estates when he died. Perhaps one of the TNG films could be about what happens when Perrin puts her evil plot (whatever it is) into effect.

To Pam Baddeley - Re smart materials. I think Data's skin must be a smart material as when he loses his head in Time's Arrow the skin goes all plastic and shiny. Therefore it must become malleable, etc, only when 'turned on', eg when it has some sort of electric current passed through it.

To James Shaw - Perhaps they don't use transporters in emergency situations when people are trapped because they don't know how badly hurt they are. In I, Borg, Beverly couldn't transport Hugh back to the ship until she stabilised his vital signs.

To Kathleen Glancy - Intellect is *partly* hereditary. However, it also has much to do with environment. Neither factor can be looked at alone. Also, generally, two very intelligent people will have a child slightly less intelligent than them and two very slow people will have a child more intelligent than them as it always tends towards the average IQ of 100. There are of course exceptions.

To Bill Taylor - If intelligence was a dead end in evolution then we would not be becoming more advanced at a faster rate as time goes by. Evolution and natural selection would have at least slowed down by now. Intelligent women may, on average, have fewer children but they influence the world more through their efforts and discoveries.

To Karen Davies - I think Wesley would almost certainly be on the bridge in Yesterday's Enterprise. If the war was going badly they would need as many trained people as possible, thus more people would be encouraged to go to the Academy and would be accepted earlier. Wesley would have been thrown into the Academy due to his intelligence and Captain Picard would probably have requested him on the Enterprise. Why would Jack Crusher still be alive? There's a war going on. In my opinion the chances of his being dead are even higher.

To Edward Woo - Re Face of the Enemy. Subtitles would have been great. Unfortunately people in TV seem to be paranoid about them. I have seen dozens of films where parts were screaming out to be in the correct language. I wish they would understand that having to do a little reading in no way spoils our enjoyment. For instance, Nikita was in French with subtitles, and was as good as any American film.

It's always very tempting to buy professional books because they're right in from of you and they're shiny and have pretty pictures on them and it's hard to resist. Unfortunately more often than not you end up disappointed, eg Grounded by David Bischoff or anything by Gene deWeese.

To Harvinder Singh - Q could be in the film if they invented something more powerful than a Q. That would set Q back a bit, wouldn't it?

To Ann Peters - That Klingons evolved from dogs would explain the ridges, but they evolved from *Klingon* dogs. Have you seen a Klingon dog?

Also re life - strands of amino acids in the right time and place are alive, we're all over the place. 'God' may have created the universe and the laws within it, but we evolved from amino acids through these laws. Nothing is truly artificial if it is made of the natural materials of our universe. Who knows why a soul appears in one thing and not another? Who is to say that if someone built a Data a soul would not choose to reside there?

Jim Robertson - Brechin

To Toni Cumming - I disagree, I much prefer Kirsty Alley as Saavik. She was trying to be totally logical and prove she was a Vulcan. Apart from that she was so cute!

To Edwin Yau - Re Federation vs the Empire. The difference in technology is only part of the story. The Empire spanned a galaxy; a super star destroyer has 30000 marines alone. It goes without saying that the Empire would cream the Federation any day. Having said that, the Empire has been

in existence for 10000 years; the Federation is only just beginning.

I have noticed a trend to put down Classic Trek, and some people want CT episodes banned from cons! Please remember, all you TNG fans, without Classic Trek there would be no TNG or DS9. While I admit the effects are pretty naff, the characters are much stronger than any in TNG (apart from possibly Data or Ro). Luckily DS9 seems to be developing a reasonably strong cast, with the exception of Sisko.

Edward Woo - John Moore's University City

A book called Best of Trek recently shed new light on an old argument. It would seem Stiles in Balance of Terror is not related to Stiles in ST III, because the spelling of the names is different.

To Bjo Trimble and Dawn Tittley - Re shy fans at cons. When I started going, I just went to watch the videos. I found that by volunteering for stewarding, security or technical operations, I became known. My first con room mate was Baggy; he, Simon and I now share a triple at cons. Talking to other stewards is one way of breaking the ice, plus my writings in IDIC get me noticed. However, at heart I am still a quiet person.

To Michael Farquhar and David Mason - People go to cons either to catch up with videos, to meet up with old friends, or both. Fans lucky enough to see the videos before the cons can enjoy the social side. A balance of the two is needed. Currently some people lean towards videos because they are episodes not yet broadcast in Britain.

To Pam Baddeley - I agree that the lack of strong women is due to the regular cast being tilted in favour of male leads. If the Captain or even No. One had been a woman that would have helped to balance it out.

To James Shaw - Re Yesterday's Enterprise. Data could have been found years before any open hostilities began between Klingons and Federation. As for the Enterprise, she could have been built years before the rumblings of war. As starships

take years to build, any ship could have been pressed into military use. Galaxy Class Starships are designed to meet the unknown, hence it would be able to defend itself. I am not sure about Guinan - but Ten Forward would be there, as it is the hub of a ship's morale to drink before going into battle.

I would have liked to have seen Lt. Commander Troi giving crew briefings about the Klingons and their mentality and how to defeat them; this would boost morale for the next encounter.

Wesley could have been at the Academy and assigned to the Enterprise for battle experience.

Incidentally, what happened to the Organians?

To Lesley Arrowsmith and Liz Butler - Yes, there are a lot of Trek novels out now, which could affect zine sales. If the novels are poor, people should stick to the zines. Like Richard Arnold said, if the Trek merchandise is no good, don't buy. If you have bought a book and it was rubbish, write to the publishers saying so.

To Dave Styles - Your figures about how many ships are in Starfleet is interesting. I can only think that the loss of the 40-odd ships may have been some (if not all) of the best ships and best crews available. The experience could lead Starfleet to think about future conflicts - hence in *The Wounded*, another war with the Cardassians was to be avoided at all costs.

Incidentally, if the Fleet was expecting a battle at Wolf 359, how come the non-essential personnel, civilians and children weren't evacuated to a nearby planet for safety?

To Jennifer Cobbing - I too had the Warp One sickness. I wrote my con report but it was after the deadline - however we had Helen's and Taruka's excellent reports to read instead.

To Helen White - Bracknell's 51.26 N and 0.45 W. Are you sure you're a Klingon?

Have you told Stephen? He's always looking for recruits for KAG! You'll have to come to Contagion 94 to see the real life kilt, not just the photos. Don't the ladies wear some kind of tartan outfit as well? How about it, Helen?

It's a pity they didn't film *The Host* with Dr Crusher finding an attractive male ~~un~~attractive. Incidentally, is TNG actually breaking new TV barriers like the original series. or is it staying on safe ground? It just seems to me that Classic Trek was more innovative.

To David J Raper - Starfleet would never use the cloaking device as it is deemed a first strike weapon for a sneak attack. Starfleet has a philosophy to defend itself against attack but not be the cause of it.

To Taruka Quauhtezcatl - How many tribbles does it take to screw in a light bulb? Don't know? 1, 2, 4, 16, 256, 65536 etc - they breed quickly! (Bad enough, eh?)

Valerie Piacentini - Saltcoats

With reference to the comments on Creation Con, there are a few more points to consider. First, it would be difficult for the organisers to attract the numbers they are accustomed to in the States. Warp One, the biggest con so far, had 1700 attendees; that would have to quadruple, at least, and the registration fee would be very much higher than fans are accustomed to paying. It just might not be worth Creation's while to arrange their usual programme in this country - and if they offered anything less, there would be little incentive for fans to attend. However, if they did go ahead, this would not necessarily damage the existing cons; certainly the line-up Creation could offer would attract fans, and the attendance at the existing Cons might drop slightly, but I'm sure there will always be a demand for the type of con Creation does not and cannot offer - the social side is completely missing. Come to think of it, some enterprising committee might even arrange a 'social' con around a Creation Con, offering the friendly get-togethers and out of hours events that would otherwise be missing.

To Michael Farquhar - a medical officer

presumably carries a rank reflecting his experience and service, but would be very unlikely to be anywhere in the chain of command. McCoy certainly never took command in Classic Trek (we must ignore the novels), and I've never heard of a doctor assuming command in the field. Can any of our members in the services comment?

To Marie Park - the UFP President and Saratoga's helmsman couldn't be Deltans, since they were shown with an almost lion-like mane of hair; we've seen male Deltans before, and like Ilia, they are hairless.

To Jennifer Cobbing - I'd like to see the drama competition brought back in its own right. Limit the fancy dress to costumes only, and have the sketches separately. Two conditions: a time limit; and decent sound, either miming to a pre-recorded tape, or using mikes. There have been some really great entries in the past; I particularly remember Starfleet returning captured criminals from the Rim Worlds, and members of the Sol III group interpreting the hatching and impression of dragons. These were really marvellous entertainment.

To Dave Houston - try asking your butcher to cut chops from the leg.

To Philip Morley - Re why most of the intelligent life forms in Star Trek look humanoid, when Gene Roddenberry was asked the same thing, he replied that when someone found him a non-Human actor, he'd be delighted to cast him. My query is why the makeup people currently have this obsession with noses - that seems to be the current shorthand for 'alien'.

Jean Donkin - Ilford, Essex

To Jacqueline Comben - It is many a long year since I wrote to a N/L, but I have to respond to your article 'Hooked' in N/L 29. I agree with everything you said about Classic, TNG or DS9. The DS9 pilot grabbed me from the start. I like Sisko and the others - Quark especially is a gem. O'Brien is the one I am not too sure about, but he is growing on me. It is so good to have something new in Trek to enthuse over.

I wonder if in due course Sisko could be promoted to Captain of the Enterprise?

Ann Peters - Kidderminster

Re Bill Taylor's view of women - Bill's hypothesis was not at all insulting to women; he made a very reasonable point. If a) intelligent women choose not to put their bodies through the birth process and tie up several years of their lives in childrearing, and b) intelligence is influenced in some part by the sex chromosome, then his assertion that intelligence in women will decline is sound. I have read that there are more male geniuses, but more male idiots too, ie a wider range of intelligence in males than in females, so it's not totally unreasonable to propose that intelligence is linked with gender. The fact that non-intelligent parents can have intelligent children does not disprove a genetic basis for intelligence because it is very unlikely to be under the control of a single, dominant gene. And I can perfectly well understand that Bill, as a male, regards childbearing as a pretty dumb thing to do by choice! Several objections to Bill's remark were not pertinent to the point he was making. What has happened in the past (great women like Boudica and the progress of the women's movement) is irrelevant, because the widespread choice involved in women's fertility is very recent, and we would not see its effect until some future date. And since Bill did say that declining intelligence in women was NOT something he wanted to happen, the MCP accusations were uncalled for. All in all, too many people jumped down Bill's throat without really considering what he was actually saying.

To Dave Styles - People don't watch pirate videos for the quality - they just want to SEE the episodes. This situation would never have arisen, of course, if the BBC had done the right thing and bought TNG and DS9. Around 4.5 million people were watching seasons 1, 2 & 3, and now Sky are showing to about 0.5 million, so 4 million people who want to see TNG can't! Unlike Janet, I don't see Sky as being good to Trek fans - I see them as being good to themselves. Every person who pays to see TNG on Sky makes it less likely the BBC will be able to

afford to show it to the rest of us.

To Karen Davies - At such time as all TNG has been shown on BBC at least three times, I will certainly be happy to pay £30-odd for a con and find there is no TNG being shown.

To Neil Barrett - I don't know exactly what Diane Duane's DNA transfer for learning languages involves, but it seems unrealistic to me. DNA controls the building of the brain including the potential for language in general, but all that is done before birth. Actual language, actual accent and actual idioms are learned - by reinforcing some brain cell connections and destroying others. I don't think DNA has anything to do with specific languages at all.

To Leslie Arrowsmith - I have to agree with Edwin Yau that women are every bit as responsible as men for the state of the planet. The top decisions may be made by men, but they are supported by women in what they do (wives; mothers; secretaries...) and any woman who has more than two children is making a much more lasting contribution to the world's problems than the occasional top level decision.

Simon Trick - Kingston, Surrey

To Sara Jackson - Re Alias Smith and Jones (N/L 28). The actor who replaced the late Pete Duel was Roger Davis. In fact (if you like trivia) Roger Davis did the introductory voice-over for season one of Alias Smith and Jones ("...this made our two latter-day Robin Hoods very popular - with everyone but the railroads and the banks!") Both interpretations were, for me, enjoyable and valid. Pete Duel was a more mercurial Hannibal Heyes; Roger Davis had a more laid-back style.

To Lee Sansome - Re William Shatner's acting. I agree. Kirk, like Picard, is a complex individual with deep passions and convictions; but his personality is much more out-going than Picard's, so sometimes his dynamic qualities seem to submerge all others. But Kirk also has a fine sense of self-control and I believe Mr Shatner displayed Kirk's many and diverse qualities very well.

He certainly did not 'ham it up' when he could quite easily have done so on many occasions. If he had Kirk would not have become such a believable and interesting character. Watch Bread and Circuses for his very subtle displays of emotion while the Pro-consul was baiting him about Spock and McCoy's danger. Check Conscience of the King for fine controlled acting and rapid, subtly-played emotional changes. See Mirror, Mirror in which he has a chance to display self-control and physical prowess and powers of oration. There are many others which I'll leave to other people to find for themselves.

To Bill Taylor - Re the famous (perhaps 'infamous', judging by N/L 29) letter of N/L 28. Whether or not your letter was serious (as questioned by Jennifer Cobbing) only you know for sure. But the viewpoint you expressed needs answering.

1) Human society is still sadly male-orientated in most cultures. This includes Paramount Studios. True, the position of women in ST has improved on 25 years ago, but there's still a long way to go yet; there are not enough females seen in command positions in TNG.

2) Intelligence has no genetic link to sex. It has plenty to do with attitudes of society. In some cultures where education is expensive and money is in short supply, there's a tradition of sending boys only to school and college. In Baha'i Writings it has been pointed out that "...the capacity of woman is the same as man; if she were educated with the same advantages the results would be the same; in fact women have a superior disposition to men, they are more receptive, more sensitive, their intuition is more intense. The only reason for their backwardness in some directions is because they have not had the same educational advantages as man."

This means that women have, in the past (and in too many parts of the world today) been denied the opportunity to fulfil their potential; but in places where women have been given equal opportunities, rights and privileges, they've shown themselves to

be men's equal.

3) Intelligence cannot be "an evolutionary blind alley" in women. They are generally the first educators of children. "If a mother is well-educated, her children will also be well-taught. If the mother is wise, the children will be wise. The future generation depends on the mothers of today." (Baha'i Writings)

Women need encouragement and support from other women and men in order that women can become full partners with men, creating a far more advanced society. After all, if only the male wing of society is working fully but the female wing is in some way being crippled, how can society fly towards its future?

Jennifer Blanchard - Godalming

In N/L 29 William Marsh says the theory of two Klingon races is more believable than the Klingon/Human fusion theory. He says even this is unbelievable now as in a season 6 episode you see an original series Klingon come back with bumps on his forehead. The Klingon/Romulan bumps have niggled me, also the question why the Federation do not use a cloaking device? William's letter made me wonder if we have seen the reason why the Federation won't use a cloaking device; only Klingons/Romulans would be ruthless enough to use one no matter what the consequences to their DNA, which will even affect their offspring (nb Alexander).

To Paul Hulford - I don't think you are over-reacting re Chain of Command. My son is 7, and there is no way he's watching that episode! However, I definitely appreciate the show exploring 'adult themes' of many kinds.

Victoria Roberts - Formby

To Marie Park - Re Saavik. I'm afraid that I have to disagree with you over Spock and Saavik's emotional control. Saavik's control would NOT be as strong as Spock's, as, unlike Spock who has been "trained" to control his emotions, she spent her formative years on a Romulan colony world, Hellguard, and thus didn't learn logic and emotional control until much later. (Pandora Principle

by Carolyn Clowes puts her age at about 10 when Spock first meets Saavik.) She therefore lacks the practice (and maturity) Spock possesses.

To Bill Taylor - Whoever taught you biology (and genetics) should be shot! As a biologist myself, I can say with some certainty that intelligence is *not* an *inheritable* quality, it's something that is acquired through experience (of life) and education.

To any Trek fans in the Liverpool/Southport area - A new shop has opened in Southport, selling SF books, comics, figures, Trek magazines, books, calendars, etc. It's at 5 - 7 Union St (tel 0704 548629), is called Planet Earth and is worth a visit.

Ronnie Reid - Kilbirnie, Ayrshire

To Tracy Saunders - In answer to your question in N/L 29, the Human-fusion Klingons are still in existence. They are used for covert operations, and like all other Klingons they do have an important role to play in the continuation of the Klingon culture. The dog-like creatures the Imperial Klingons evolved from are nothing like those on Earth. In one of the episodes of TNG (I believe it was Where No One Has Gone Before) there was one of these creatures on the bridge of the Enterprise - Worf's pet targ. As to your point about 'hunting in packs' - a Klingon squadron is composed of three vessels which I suppose could be classified as a small pack.

To Ann Peters - The ridges on the Klingons' forehead stem from the spinal column of the creature from which they evolved, similar to the Terran race who still possess traces of a tail (bone at the base of the spine) from the ape-like creatures they evolved from.

To Keren Breen - The Sheffield Space Centre sells five different bookmarks, as follows - Spock - ISBN 0-7824-0830-3; Kirk - ISBN 0-7824-0833-8; Picard - ISBN 0-7824-0832-X; Riker - ISBN 0-7824-0837-0; Data - ISBN 0-7824-0831-1.

To Neil Barrett - The Klingon race would never commit mass genocide as it is

not an honourable act, and would serve no purpose. Albeit that there are several different races of Klingons, their culture is such that they would honour each other. They would only kill someone from their race if it proved to be beneficial to them (ie for promotion, to hide a long-kept secret, etc.)

To Philip Morley - Sorry, I made a slight miscalculation in my answer to your question in the last N/L. Captain Kirk was 72 years of age, not 61 as I had said.

To Sally Goodwin - I bought a book last year called *Who's Who in Star Trek* (ISBN 0-352-32186-5). It lists actors/actresses' names in alphabetical order alone with details of the character and episode they appeared in. It includes some details about TNG as well. It was published by Star Books; the address I have for them is PO Box 11, Falmouth, Cornwall, TR10 9EN.

Gratienne Vandekerckhove - Belgium

Re liking/disliking Bill Shatner. As I haven't been to any conventions so far, my sole impressions come from reading the reports. As with anything I haven't heard first hand (and even with those) I try to keep an open mind. I don't doubt that the person making the remarks believes what (s)he is saying but to me that doesn't automatically mean it's the truth. Besides, I feel that any disagreement shouldn't be displayed in public.

Concerning that particular con report, I can only say that any remarks made by James Doohan on Bill Shatner won't change my regard for an actor who jointly with Leonard Nimoy has given me my first taste of what true friendship can be. On the personal point, I don't know him nor am I ever likely to, but as I prefer to form my own ideas all I can say is that I find him physically very attractive which doesn't say anything about him as a human being, and on that I have neither liking nor disliking.

To Bjo Trimble - Those statistics are all based on earth-bound conditions. Who guarantees that in a survival type of situation there will be an Earth-type planet at hand? I still think that adults will have a bigger

chance of survival, partly through learned survival techniques and experience, partly through their sense of responsibility towards each other and the children. I would have resented my parents too if they had the opportunity to serve in space and said no because of me, but then the more dangerous the situation the more appeal it had for me. I wouldn't have been able to step aside and make a decision based on all the pros and cons. I would have thought only about how exciting it would have been, and to hell with the possible dangers!

Pam Baddeley - Farnborough

My comments all relate to N/L 28.

To Cathy Halford - Despite my care - all those 'ifs' - it seems you took umbrage at my few comments on *The Outcast*. I don't usually 'prejudge' things - I certainly don't intend to pass any opinion on DS9, for example, until I've seen it and I'm avoiding reading any articles about it till then for that reason - but in this case Stephen's article was on such an important issue that I had to say my initial impressions based on it. Hence my remarks about IF it showed such-a-thing in the way his article said. Since then, I've bought the tape and watched it very carefully. I accept that they are trying to portray intolerance of other sexual preferences in the form of an allegory. The danger is that it could be taken more or less on face value by people prejudiced against gays to mean that if gays had power, they would want to force everyone else to be gay too. This is because those who are intolerant would see the androgynous characters as gay, since they don't have much idea about the reality. If you think this is far-fetched, please reflect that a lot of people with anti-gay prejudices are incapable of distinguishing between gays, transvestites, transsexuals, etc. And, as Stephen said in his article that sparked off this discussion, Soran is heterosexual - which is 'normal' to society as a whole, leading people who don't accept gays to take this literally and not to view him/her as representing a persecuted minority. I take the point that it is Soran's society who label her as 'sick', not Soran himself/herself until after his/her adjustment.

That brings me onto Baerbel Schmidt's interesting article on the Trill, contrasting their rationale in DS9 to that portrayed in The Host. I am trying not to read about DS9 but I made an exception for this article because the opening made it clear that it tied in with something I felt after seeing that episode myself recently. I found Odan's attitude to the damaged body as abhorrent - treating it like a used Kleenex. Yet the female host at the end obviously had some awareness and individuality even if her tone of voice was rather 'flat'. I think I would have been more comfortable with the ending if, rather than have it that Bev couldn't cope with carrying on the relationship on a 'lesbian' footing, she would have been repulsed by the attitude it represented towards intelligent life forms. (Or even that she just couldn't cope with the chopping and changing - they could have had a discussion somewhere in the episode that, despite the reality of emotional and personality aspects to a deep relationship, the physical one of relating to an individual's unique features and other characteristics is key to human relationships. There was a hint of this but it would have been better I believe if, as someone else suggested, Odan's replacement host had been a really fanciable man. That would have brought it home to the audience that it was the change of body per se that was the problem, not leaving them with the idea that same sex relationships are a real no-no even if you loved the person before.) I'm glad to read that in DS9 the host is enhanced by the experience because it would really put me off the series if the Trill character had the same attitude as Odan.

To Mollie Weston - Thank you for your supportive comments about my problems with Electronic Mail. I was interested that you had a letter apologising for slowness, and about Joyce McDonald's letter to Data Matrix. Her comments about bounced cheques are ironic in view of her hanging on to my \$60! I've just had a letter about it printed in Data Matrix's latest newsletter and the club president is passing it on to JM so I hope to get a response at last.

To Carol Sterenberg - Your comments about Data's biological side were interesting.

'Soft' engineers are working with biological materials, as I mentioned in N/L 29, to produce new, responsive, materials for buildings and robots, and maybe other applications. One of these capabilities could include self repairing machines. Incidentally, as you may have guessed, we either had a typing gremlin last N/L or I had too many spots on my mind after my previous para about Spot the cat, because I meant 'soft engineering', not 'spot engineering'!

John Stuble - Boston, Lincs

I am enjoying reading about the 'birth' of DS9. Many people seem to dislike it - the main complaints seem to be that it is very slow and isn't proper Star Trek (I shall ignore the remarks about the acting). I seem to remember similar complaints about TNG, and look where that is!

I must admit to being a fan of DS9. I particularly liked Jacqueline Comben's article 'Hooked' in which she explained her views about DS9. I agree with much of it, particularly because I entered fandom in the movie era, before TNG - when the Classic cast relationships had, in my opinion, firmed into maturity. DS9, I imagine, has the same flavour to it as Classic Trek had in its first series. It has fire, imagination, conflict and controversy.

To add my own thoughts to the debate, I think if it wasn't for TNG, DS9 would be viewed as, as Jacqueline put it, an excellent successor to Star Trek. All I can say to all those who are criticising it is not to draw endless comparisons with TNG. Think of DS9 as 'Classic Trek in the Next Generation'. Okay, I suppose new series should be different, but I see enough differences in cast, situation and outlook so that it won't be just 'Classic Trek in the Next Generation' but something subtly different.

As a final comment for all those who have seen DS9 (however you managed it!), especially the episode The Game. Put the Classic cast in there instead of the new cast, scroll back 25 years and imagine a season 2 episode called The Game where Kirk, Spock and a young Yeoman are doing the game, and a headstrong Ensign is forced to play the

game with McCoy watching, helpless...

To Edwin Yau - Re Star Wars Empire vs the Federation. I'd love to get technical and tactical with you over this. If you wish you can write to me and I'll give you my views. (66 Deldale Rd, Wyberton, Boston PE21 7BT)

To all - What do you think of this 'Marketing Firm' setting up an Official UK Star Trek fan club, eh? How artificial can you get!

Gloria Fry - Glasgow

Concerning zines - Sorry, but I don't like the zine A5 format at all. For me, the only plus is the price. The print is too small and is also quite faint at times, and a strain on my eyes, the artwork is not shown to best advantage by being reduced either. At Contagion many people told me that they did not like it either. Many zine buyers are over 40, and that is about the time that eyesight begins to alter. If the readers find the print difficult to read they won't buy it regardless of the price. It is good, however to see that many of the members support zine production and hopefully others will read the comments and articles and be encouraged to buy.

The last five years of pro-books have almost all been abysmal, so many books have padded out plots, are full of bad writing with poor grammar and punctuation. What are the editors and proofreaders getting paid for at Pocket Books? Also, heaven forbid that the characters inter-relate in any way, especially Kirk and Spock! Some poor innocent reader might think that a little verbal sparring or a touch between them means that they have a homosexual relationship! Have the powers-that-be ever watched the original series? In the sixties it was okay for two males to have a close friendship, a love relationship, which Gene intended. He even invented the word 'thyl'a' to describe their friendship. They called it being brothers in one episode, so why should it be in today's so-called enlightened times that pro-fiction so carefully avoids the relationship? The Kirk - Spock friendship is an inspiring one. How many of us are lucky enough to have a friendship as

wonderful as theirs? All the good writers seem to have abandoned professional Trek writing; perhaps they were unwilling, or unable to comply with the restrictions of the accepted format. It has become a money-grabbing system for robbing the fans blind.

To Ann Peters - I totally disagree with you about Avery Brooks on DS9. I think he has real presence and is far from the 'token black' as you put it. It is perhaps insulting to call someone the 'token black' in Star Trek. It has never been known for having such a policy in any of its incarnations. That was not Gene Roddenberry's style.

To Jennifer Cobbing - I quite agree with you about fancy dress participants putting on little playlets which hardly anyone in the hall could even hear. It should not be allowed. At Contagion they had a proper fancy dress competition. The entrants walked around the room, showed their costumes then stood in a line at the front of the stage. By the way, it was nice talking to you and Kay Stag at Warp One.

Andrew Carnegie - Sevenoaks

Having just returned from holiday I was delighted to discover that my video successfully recorded the last episodes of season six of TNG. However, I was disappointed to see episodes such as Lessons and Frame of Mind, which did not in any way appeal to me. On the other hand, Face of the Enemy, Tapestry, Starship Mine, Second Chances and Timescape were excellent. Wasn't Marina Sirtis excellent as Major Rikal of the Tol Shair? After reading the book Imzadi, I found Second Chances an excellent episode in resolving the Troi/Riker romance. (This book would, in my opinion, made an excellent episode for season 7.) Sky didn't show Descent because, I assume, part 2 has not been released. Now everyone has to wait for 7.5 months to see it since Sky is repeating every episode right from Encounter at Farpoint; how boring?!

Re Imzadi - 40 years from when he was on Enterprise D, Data is CO of Enterprise F. His rank, however, is not Captain but Commodore, yet Wesley Crusher is Captain Crusher of USS Hood. What is the difference

between Captain and Commodore?

To Ronald Reid - You wrote in N/L 29 that Picard was given command of the Stargazer just six years after graduating from Starfleet Academy. I find it hard to believe that Picard progressed from Ensign to Captain in such a short time. After six years I would expect him to be a senior lieutenant or perhaps Lt. Commander, but not Captain. *[Sheila - In Star Trek Chronology, which is a time line from dates given in episodes and other canon, it says Picard graduated from the Academy in 2327 and took command of the Stargazer in 2333, at age 28. The date is based on a reference in the Writers' Guide that he was 22 years on the Stargazer.]*

To Brenda Allen - Re Wesley in Yesterday's Enterprise. I agree that he should not be on the bridge. He is an NCO. Also the Enterprise is the Federation flagship and in a state of war a fully qualified navigator would be required. Since season 2 Wesley has been an acting ensign (which I don't object to) but to put him at the helm of the flagship is stupid when there are qualified officers for the post. Similarly, he should not have been at the helm in The Best of Both Worlds when the Borg invaded, even though he was by then a full ensign. Surely he would have been better suited to an engineering post than a bridge one.

To Philip Morley - Re intelligent life forms resembling humanoids. The season 6 episode The Chase helps to explain this.

Taruka Quauhtezcatl (Eagle Mirror) - Preston (The Bolivian Terrorist)

To Bjo Trimble - Hi! And to anyone else who has a mangled surname, perhaps we should have a subdivision of IDIC - the MANGLED SURNAME BRANCH.

Has anyone else heard the rumour that a group of TNG actors (Stewart, Frakes and Spiner according to one source) will be in Blackpool next year? I caught it in May and haven't as yet been able to pin it down. (More details later if I get them.)

To Jason Wells - Scratchbuilding depends on how much experience you have

(I've been building things for 26 years but don't often scratchbuild.) Keep half a ton of spare parts from everything. Be prepared to go over something several times to get it right, and bear in mind that you have to make your own bits for joining plastic card. Oh, yes, a chunk of balsa wood cut to shape is great for moulding awkward bits. (You can use plastic and balsa together on a model unless it's for something like the IPMS competition.) A useful book (if you can still get it) is Making Model Aeroplanes by Brian Philpott. This covers most aspects of scratchbuilding in a very understandable way - my copy's very dogeared!

To William Marsh - If time permits I'd like to prove you wrong. There are a lot of non-communicative people - I found that out at Warp One - and the 'video brigade' quite honestly get on my nerves. OK, I curled up in the Ballroom on the last day, but that was because I was too tired to do anything else! A word to everyone who thinks a con is just for catching up on videos; find someone who has the episodes, see them before you get to the con and for Inti's sake get out and meet people! (Having said that I'm hoping to catch a few more DS9 episodes I haven't seen, but I'll take my chances.)

To David Houston (aka Texas Dave) - Just because I 'borrow' your N/L while you're out at work doesn't mean I hog it! Nah - what it is is that I find it such a good read that I'm lost in Trekland for a few hours. That's what he doesn't like!

Don't you mean a Euridian when you wrote Ferengi in your article on DS9/TNG? I mean, they're not THAT similar!

To Jill Clements - Actually it's Judith who was seen round Warp One trailing tribbles. She took two for a walk on the second day of the con.

As for me being an Amazonian - sorry to disappoint you, but my heritage is more in the La Paz area. I always found the jungle a bit sticky (not to mention such horrible things as sach'amamas and anacondas) and preferred the clear air in the mountains; cold, but clear.

No, all my outfits aren't knitted; some are.

To Ron C Carmen re your list of actors' other roles. Thank you. But I have a tape of Uncle Tom's Cabin (1990, I think) starring... Avery Brooks. Not on your list.

Re fan fiction again. Having written the odd, very poor attempt at fiction I find that of my fellow fans refreshing and humorous. There have been times when I've skipped chapters in a book purely to get to the end of the thing (The Entropy Effect and The Children of Hamelin spring to mind) and bury it in a corner of my bookshelf. It is all too easy to become complacent if you know you have a ready market and an eager publisher. Where the fans excel is in quality - it's survival of the fittest so it HAS to be good to get into a zine. (Here speaks a draft reader) By the way, for those aspiring writers out there - try writing a story which stays within the Paramount guidelines. It's not easy!

Judith Taylor - Preston

I am a new member and not fully acquainted with your discussions yet. It is nice to know there are more out there who appreciate good SF with a moral cause.

I must say I agree with Jennifer Cobbing. Warp One was my first con. I entered the fancy dress expecting a comparison of costumes - lo and behold, I had to put on a five minute production of wit and charm! Not exactly what I expected. Luckily my friend pulled me through by the seat of my pants. Please, any committees out there - never do it again! My heart won't take it (adrenalin sends me extremely wonky).

To Kathryn Boag - DS9 does get better, but the signature tune is still as forgettable. Can anyone out there whistle or hum the DS9 tune? If so, let me know! We are the few.

Did anyone see Siddig on Parallel 9, also Daemon Git and Klingon horde (Klingons playing basketball). Well, it's different.

I don't suppose anyone out there knows what has happened to the model of the Enterprise shuttle on the wall of the observation lounge, as it has the aircraft carrier, not the shuttle.

Finally, can you take Word Perfect?
[Sheila - yes.]

Marie Park - Hull

The article by Edward Woo about Ensign Ro Laren prompted me to add my own opinions on that vein. Referring to Disaster, the article stated that Ro 'had the nerve to challenge Counselor Troi's ability to command'. Having had the opportunity to see Disaster myself, I must beg to differ from Mr Woo concerning Ro's behaviour. It is worth remembering that Troi only became de facto commanding officer during the emergency because O'Brien had drawn attention to her rank and that she was the only senior officer on the bridge *at the time*. Therefore, Lt. Commander Deanna Troi had temporarily put aside her role of Ship's Counselor to accept her new responsibilities. Ro didn't make matters any easier by looking down her Bajoran nose at the Counselor, totally failing to appreciate the dilemma that Troi was facing during those crucial moments - does she separate the saucer section or wait it out? There is no way that Ro would have behaved as disgracefully had Picard been on the bridge.

Considering the subject of Sarek's katra, there is no doubt in my mind that, given the choice, Picard would have volunteered to become the keeper of the katra. He'd have acted in the same way as he had done when undergoing a mind meld in the episode Sarek, in spite of the Ambassador's reluctance. It is worth taking into consideration that at death Sarek was 203 years of age, so surely it would be inconceivable for him to have passed his katra to Picard, Bendii Syndrome or not. Picard was roughly one quarter of that great age, plus the factor that he would be in no way prepared to receive the knowledge/living spirit of a 203 year old Vulcan. If the usually reserved and authoritative Jean-Luc Picard was reduced to tears after receiving such intense, repressed emotion - via mind

meld - from a Vulcan struggling to maintain equilibrium, what might have happened had Picard become the keeper of Sarek's katra, even for a short time, does not bear thinking about.

Having recently seen the season 6 cliffhanger, I had the distinct impression that Data had reached a crossroads; he felt that Human emotions were within his grasp but is aware of the consequences, which has always been Data's most distinctive quality when compared with his brother Lore. In his appearances in *Datalore* and *Brothers*, Lore had maintained that Data was 'less perfect' by not having emotions built into him in the first place. However, if Lore intended to set himself up as an example of perfection, it was little wonder that Data told him "How sad, dear brother, you make me wish I were an only child". Indeed, if Data had reached a certain point towards realising his goal by the end of season 6, would the emotion chip stolen by Lore in *Brothers* be of any use to Data if he'd attained basic emotions by his own efforts? If that is the case, Data can't be 'less perfect than Lore' - can he?

Cmdr K'Tan Sutai Kuragan (KAG Scotland)

To Anne Neilson - None of the ladies present at Midsummer Trek complained about us using the full length mirrors in the ladies' toilets. Maybe they only wanted to see our disrupters?

To Helen White - Yes, you missed the sight of the year at a Star Trek con - Edward Woo in a kilt.

To Edward Woo - Pity the kilt was on back to front. (Same again next year, Edward!)

To Baggie (the Englishman) - Your turn next year for the kilt (you might even get an invite to the Klingon party!)

To Elaine Webb - The Klingons in ST VI are wearing red because they are the bodyguard of the Ambassador.

To Karen Davies - Gorkon didn't know about the BoP that can fire when cloaked because the Klingons who didn't want peace

kept the secret from him as they still wanted to fight the Federation scum (I quite agree with them.)

To Tracy Saunders - The Human fusion Klingons are now Targ feeders and toilet attendants. Imperial Klingons evolved from dogs! That's a bit ruff.

To Jill Clements - Worf is the only attractive Klingon in *Redemption I* because he has been with the Federation scum for too long and is becoming mummy's boy.

To Maureen Holinsworth - I have read a few articles saying that Mr Shatner didn't write the Tek War novels.

Karen Davies & Rebekah Owens - Birmingham

After watching *Chain of Command* a few thoughts have occurred to us regarding the character of Picard. To be honest, we thought the ending was a bit glib - just a little chat to Troi and he's apparently back to normal in the next episode with no visible ill-effects. Servicemen captured in the Gulf War and the hostages in Iran had to undergo careful counselling because of their awful experiences. Picard has the added responsibility of a crew of a thousand under his command. We were discussing this together and one of our conclusions was that the part could have been given to a 'lesser' character/crew member and then the after-effects of the torture could have been further explored. Although there is little time to actually fit in a full scale analysis of his condition after torture in one episode there would be opportunities to mention how he was healing. Plus a lesser crew member would have added to the tension. Everyone knows that Picard will survive the torture because he's a lead character. However, a 'minor' character may or may not survive - exactly the situation with many people held captive. The stumbling block is, of course, whether or not people would react in the same way as they would with a known and admired character such as Picard's.

There seems to be a general danger that the writers are turning Picard into some kind of superhuman, unreachable character.

For example, as well as the above, he was also assimilated by the Borg and forced to kill; lived a lifetime as someone else in 25 minutes; met himself in Time Squared; was controlled by the Ferengi in the first season; died on the operating table and still managed to single-handedly save the Enterprise in Starship Mine. All this and heaven known what happened to him on the Stargazer!

This is not to criticise Picard or Patrick Stewart. We hasten to add that we admire both! It's just that - are things being taken a little too far with him? Episodes like Lessons are presumably designed to show the caring, *Human* Picard. However, in the end he is forced to reject his new-found love - surely something like this would add to any psychological trauma? Knowing that a relationship could never be fully developed because nothing can be allowed to compromise his position as Captain.

We saw something in Family of how he (and presumably the Federation) dealt with his experiences with the Borg but there have been no similar episodes following his other experiences. Part of the appeal of the series is the way in which you empathise with the characters. If Picard is turning into some superhuman character who can undergo traumatic psychological experiences won't that begin to isolate the audience? Obviously the audience knows that Everything Will Be All Right In The End but with the character of Picard this has gone too far and there is a danger of negative messages being sent - no matter how harrowing the experience it's easy to brush off.

If Starfleet had chosen Picard to Captain the Flagship of the Federation because they had thought that he would be able to cope with any unknown forces and, as can be seen, Picard does cope, then what kind of personality does that imply in the character of Picard? Doesn't it suggest someone ruthless and single minded, determined to survive because he *needs* to survive for his ship; someone who has a narrow vision and a single purpose? And, hence, a thoroughly dislikeable and disliked man? But it is plainly obvious that Picard is

none of these things. He is admired by all the crew for one thing. Riker is fiercely loyal. His even temper and calm personality make him a much-sought-after diplomat. Surely someone with that amount of sensitivity would have great difficulty in coping with the situations mentioned earlier?

Bryan R Miller - Glasgow

To All - I have just seen the first part of DS9 on Sky and must admit to being disappointed. The music is tacky and the storyline slow. Odo seems to be rather arrogant and Bashir looks like a nervous wreck. Also Sisko's behaviour towards Picard may be unwarranted but why did Picard just sit there and take that behaviour from a Commander if he is supposed to set authoritative standards?

To Edwin Yau - You may be correct in saying that ST has the advantage as far as weapons are concerned, but SW blaster technology seems to be a derivative of the laser, as is the phaser. Also ST does not have The Force or Jedi Knights.

Shield technology may actually be about equal as a star destroyer's shields are almost impenetrable. Also SW shields cannot be penetrated by any transports or fighters, whereas ST can.

SW also has the advantage of starfighters which are packed with blasters, proton torpedoes and ion cannons which can disable starships.

In comparison to weapons on starships, STING Enterprise only holds over 1000 people with numerous phaser banks and photon torpedoes. A SW star destroyer holds over 37000 people, over 80 starfighters and has the added advantage of transports which can attach to a ship's hull and burst through. *[Thanks to the many others who replied to this.]*

To D Flack - The codes you need are 10200 for the outer door and 122 for the inner door; this gave me some problems but I persevered and completed the game.

Finally, regarding the Federation using

cloaking devices, they must for covert work, as in Unification a picture of Spock on Romulus is taken by either a Federation ship or satellite. It couldn't have been Klingons as Picard would not discuss it with them, and if it had been, the Klingon High Command would have caused a storm with it.

Paul Hulford - Camberley, Surrey

Firstly, I'd like to thank everyone who set me straight about the 'stardate' on the DS9 mug. I feel like one having missed something that obvious!

To Paramount - There is an obscure English word which is apparently not in any American dictionaries - OVERKILL. Why the rush to make a quick buck out of Star Trek? I mean, it's been popular for over 25 years - its popularity is not going to wane overnight. Too much of a good thing is often detrimental. By the way, why a glamorous woman for Captain? Why not Sinead O'Connor, with Rowan Atkinson and Roy Hattersley as First and Second Officers?

To John Goss and Harvinder Singh - CIC is simply showing good business sense. They know that a RRP of £29.99 is too expensive for most people, but not for rental outlets - especially as they buy the £29.99 tape for about £19.99. CIC also knows that there are many different types of people who use the video market. For example, one person may be interested in DS9 but not interested enough to buy. Rental would suit this person down to the ground. There are, I'm sure, some people who cannot wait for the sell-through of a video, and must see it the moment it is released. Again rental is right up their alley. And of course you have the people who want to watch before they buy - again rental is perfect.

Being a video buyer I am always shocked by people having to pay more than the RRP for a video. All ST videos - with the exception of STVI - have a RRP of £10.99, and the DS9 rental tapes have a RRP of £29.99. Anyone paying over these prices is being exploited. In my opinion HMV are the worst culprits and should be avoided like the plague. On the good side you have W H Smith and Woolworths who frequently sell

newly released tapes at £9.99. For those people who are unfortunate (fortunate?) enough not to have access to these shops I would recommend Mr Bensons Video, Freepost (Pam 4492) 375 Harrow Rd, London W9 3BR or 081 960 4868. They charge £1.99 P & P for any quantity of videos, their prices are good, AND after your first order they send you a full colour catalogue each month of all the new releases, with a binder to put them in. They really are helpful and efficient.

To Jason Wells - I can't help you with the modelling but maybe you could help me. I built the Klingon Battle Cruiser last year but ran into a problem with the main colour when painting it. I followed the instructions but it didn't come out right in over 4 attempts. What colour/colours did you use, and in what proportions?

Question - Light speed is 299,792 km per second, and warp speed is faster than light travel. In the DS9 episode 'Past Prologue', Major Kira is piloting a runabout at warp speed towards DS9. She is 100,000 km from the station and doesn't drop to impulse for at least 30 seconds. Shouldn't the runabout and the space station have been destroyed in a collision?

Brenda Allan - Dawson Creek, Canada

To Paul Hulford re Brent Spiner complaining about his contacts. I'm sure that Brent has good reason to complain! He gets his yellow makeup under them and is at constant risk of getting eye infection. Merely wearing contacts causes no discomfort!

To Stewart McMillan re no serious roles for Worf. I think that Worf has had far too many "serious" episodes, and it was refreshing to see him at leisure in a holodeck program other than his war exercises.

To Ann Robertson & Stephen Shaw re Picard and Data beaming from a cloaked ship. We know from the episode 'Face of the Enemy' that a Romulan ship must lower its shields in order to engage cloak, so there should be no problem in beaming from a cloaked ship.

To Ann Peters re Data and

contractions. For most people, it is natural to use contractions, and we must make an effort NOT to use them! I'm sure that it took Brent a while before it became natural. In fact, he has gotten quite good at not using contractions. By the way, is there any rule that says that Klingons can't use contractions?

To Liz Butler re new Skybox Playmates figures. You better read that advertisement a little more carefully! It says that the new set of figures were designed based on the First Season episodes. If you remember correctly, Worf and Geordi both wore RED uniforms. But you're right, Picard's phaser does look like a light sabre!

To anyone with a comment re Brent's yellow makeup. If Data was able to give Lal more realistic skin tone, why not alter his own? That would certainly eliminate the yellow paint ritual!

One final thought: For those of you who thought that stardating doesn't work, here's one for the books!

- 1) Alexander was conceived during the episode "The Emissary" Stardate 42901.3.
- 2) Alexander is born on the 43rd Day of Mactac Stardate 43205 ("New Ground")
- 3) K'eyler returns to the Enterprise with a 3 years old Alexander in "Reunion" Stardate 44246.3
- 4) Alexander looks to be about 7 years old in "New Ground" Stardate 45376.3.

I'd be interested in hearing how IDIC readers can rationalize that set of facts!

Margie Ferguson - South Shields

I would like to say I like the A5 zines, not only because of the new price, which was a nice surprise at Contagion! I hope it means you can continue with them as the "Make It So" zines are some of the best I've read.

Shirley Read - Walter Koenig Fan - Solihull

I have been a fan of Walter Koenig for many years and I was very upset to hear from Janet that Walter had been ill in hospital. I do hope that he will get well soon. I think that Walter is a very good actor and I

think he is lovely. I am sure that the Star Trek fans wish Walter a good recovery.

Neil J Barrett - 33 miles North East of Liverpool on the A59

To Michael Farqhar & Moira Warburton: I have read the novelisation several times, thank you very much. The question was a) should Sulu be given a command of that size without previous experience and b) what was he doing in the long period between STV and STVI. I agree with Sheila Clark on a) but I'm still unsure about b). This is a gap of somewhere between 5 and 10 years; even though the Excelsior has just finished a 3 year mapping mission, there is still time unaccounted for. When did the handover from Styles to Sulu take place?

To Michael Farqhar: A Chief Medical Officer can override a senior officer on a decision that involves a medical judgement such as whether an individual is fit for duty. However they are not usually in the chain of command. Thus Commander Crusher or Pulaski must defer to Lieutenant Commander Data or even Ensign Ro if the latter has the con. Similarly McCoy would defer to Sulu or Chekov in the same situation. Try "Doctor's Orders" by Diane Duane for an alternative view of this situation.

To David Mason: If you haven't seen a Vulcan who looks like a Romulan then am I to assume that you have never seen 'The Enterprise Incident' or 'Balance of Terror'? If you mean why have the Romulans developed brow ridges then I don't think it safe to assume they are universal otherwise Spock would have attracted attention in 'Unification'. Perhaps the brow ridges are a cosmetic/fashion accessory in honour of some currently prominent person. After all they're still wearing shoulder pads ...

To Elaine Webb: "Pawns & Symbols" by Majliss Larsen suggests that Klingons can't actually see red but their eyesight works into the ultraviolet range instead. Anybody got any idea whether this is feasible? Classic Klingons seemed to prefer gold to red didn't they?

To Karen Davies (& Brenda Allen): On what do you base your suggestion that Jack Crusher would still be alive in the 'Yesterday's Enterprise' universe? Wesley on the bridge is not that incongruous; given the demands of war and the shortage of skilled personnel it is quite likely that the minimum age for service will be reduced. Notice that he is already Ensign Crusher. Brenda - a midshipman is an officer in training in the Royal Navy; nearest Starfleet equivalent would probably be a command cadet.

To Dave Styles: A 'Graphic Novel' is usually longer than a comic, the latter being more of a 'Graphic Short Story'. Surely the essence of a novel is the length of narrative and the depth of plot or characterisation rather than the format in which it is presented. It is not illiteracy that has made comics popular but the shortening of attention spans and the lessening desire to rely on one's own imagination to conjure up an image.

To Marie Park: The Efrosians come from the FASA Role Playing Game. From what I remember of their description of the race I find it unlikely that one of their number would desire to be President of the UFP. The novelisations of both films imply that these characters are Deltans and I would think that a Deltan politician could certainly gain quite a few votes on (ahem) charisma alone.

To Paul Hulford: Worf and Geordi wore RED uniforms back in the dim and distant days of TNG Season 1. My current favourite piece of merchandising is the 'Character Container' - anyone for a Borg biscuit barrel?

To Ronald Reid: I've run a Trivia Quiz for another club in the last couple of years and I've never had more than 5 entries from 115 people despite offering a signed photo as a prize.

To D Flack: Read the computer entries on the two races of Alpha Proxima III and then convert their sacred numbers into the appropriate base. Once you are inside remember to examine the rocks for trace

elements and it helps to get the mining laser working. (Don't anyone take this as an offer of future guidance - I haven't actually got the game!)

To Helen White: In IDIC 29 you declared yourself to be a Klingon but when I first met you, you were definitely a Vulcan (and a very memorable one too!) What prompted this change?

James Connarty, Coatbridge, Lanarkshire

As a newly joined member of IDIC let me first say how much I enjoyed my first newsletter, and am already looking forward to NL30. I loved the articles and news, but I think the postbag is going to be one of my favourite sections. I guess I'm one of the 250 who have joined since May, and since my membership no. is 1730, I wonder who the lucky person who got 1701 is?

Thanks to all at the IDIC stand at Contagion '93 - It was my first Con, and although I was with friends for most of the Con I really enjoyed talking with those on the IDIC stand about the club and fan writing in general, and if I hadn't I might not be a member of the club now.

Con cliques & Video Watching - I didn't really find this a problem at Contagion, most of the fans I got up the nerve to talk to were at the very least polite & friendly, and yes I did find the dealers and the organisers approachable and friendly. I do agree though that it would be tough for a first-timer on his own, you really do have to make an effort to talk to people.

About video-watching : Let's face it, that's probably the main reason for the rise in attendance at events like Contagion. I know that I go because I love TNG & DS9, but I don't own a dish and I can't afford to buy the videos regularly, but neither can I afford to miss my favourite shows. While some fans may see the rental release of DS9 as CIC messing about the buying-public, I'm all for it - it lets me see the DS9 that I would miss otherwise.

DS9 : Guests & Regulars - I agree that guests crossing over to DS9 from TNG

haven't had the same chemistry they have with the first show, but then I'd also hate not seeing them when TNG winds-up. Yes, DS9 does need guests of its own. (I'd like to see Tosk return). I feel that what the show is missing, which was certainly present in TNG's first season, is guests appearing from the main characters' pasts. Both Lore, Lwaxanna Troi & K'Ehleyr fit into this category, and both helped to define the main characters as well as being popular enough to merit their own return appearances. I hate the way the main characters seem underdeveloped at present, but they have grown on me since the show started.

The Holodeck - If it has two modes, fixed & scrolling, which was it in for Ship in a Bottle? In that episode we see the whole ship recreated in the holodeck so you would think the mode would be scrolling, yet when Data throws the object in engineering it shows the fixed limits of the program.

In the episode Second Chances (which was one of my favourites of the season), if Riker served on the Potemkin 8 years ago, then was transferred 2 years later to the Enterprise - When did he serve on the USS Hood?

The last point I have to make is about fan fiction. From what I've read so far (In Make it so 14/15 & Contagion 1&2), some is at least as good as the commercially published fiction if not better, but I don't think there has been a decline in the standard of the Pocket Books novels. Until recently the "professional" fiction was the only Next Gen fiction I had read and I still think there has been an improvement as the series has progressed. I'm a real enthusiast of Peter David & Michael Jan Friedman's Next Generation fiction, and although I agree that Grounded was pretty bad, The Romulan Prize really hooked me with its first few chapters. Hey, I'm glad that both sources of fiction exist, I'll take all the Trek I can get my hands on!

Lyn Johnstone - Bristol

Has anyone thought of asking Steve Wright of Radio 1 if he wants to join IDIC, 'cos I reckon he must mention TNG nearly

every day on his show? The other day he had Philip Schofield on (another fan) and they were discussing fave episodes, characters and everything! Perhaps Steve could put a good word in with the BBC bosses about getting it put on a decent channel and at a decent time next year!

Are there any health and safety officers on the Enterprise? Only they ought to do something about the glass tables! I've seen quite a few people (aliens?!) smash them up in one way or another, whether bodily of 'fistily' (new word for Oxford Dictionary!) Bit dangerous if you ask me! Can't they make the tables out of the same stuff they use for the viewport windows? Or would that be too expensive?

Captain Koloth - KAG Europe Commander

Be warned - the next toilet we invade could be yours... you know who you are!

Zander Bruce - Thornton, Fife

This year I attended my first ST convention, Contagion '93 in Glasgow. I thoroughly enjoyed myself, and am now hooked on cons. I only have two gripes about Contagion.

1) No provision was made for first time attendees other than a half hour meeting, two days into the con as well as the Virgins' Party I managed to throw together. I, like many, arrived on Friday evening. No members of the committee were found until well after midnight. It would have been nice to have even one person to meet first time attendees. The 'Virgins' had spent Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning either in video rooms or the dealers' room, on their own, which I personally believe defeats the purpose of a con.

2) The 'chuck-em-some-videos-and-they'll-be-happy attitude of the committee. Although this is popular at Away Team meetings, I think cons need a little more variety.

Aside from this, I met some wonderful new friends, and had a wonderful time. Would recommend anyone going a-conning volunteering to be a steward. You meet more

people and become more organised.

It can appear cliquish at a convention, though luckily I met up with friends from IDIC. First-timers do find it quite daunting, so I count myself lucky. A big Hiya! to all my lovely 'virgins' from Contagion. Hope to see you all next year.

To Jessica Mulley - Many thanks for your kind hospitality. My consort and I hope to see you both in Leicester in October. Welcome to IDIC, Jess. Hope you find as many good people in it as I have.

Steven Gibb - Glasgow

After watching a lot of the first season of TNG on Sky 1 again, for the first time it struck me just how good a character Tasha Yar was. She was a strong female, but the real thing that made her stand out was her pure common sense and responsibility to duty, something which, sadly, has been lacking to an extent with the other female officers ever since (both in TNG and DS9). Tasha was a strong officer and every bit as much of a warrior as Worf. You could take her seriously as an outstanding officer without that hint of bitchiness that some of the time was evident in the others. As a true believer in the philosophy of IDIC, I believe that both males and females are equal, and Tasha certainly showed that.

To Edwin Yau - I don't think that you could really compare the Empire from Star Wars against the Federation. Starships are much more manoeuvrable than Star Destroyers and Galaxy Class ships have 500 photon torpedoes and can fire them at a very quick rate; eg in the third season episode The Survivors, the Enterprise fired both its phasers and torpedoes at an incredible rate. I believe that, if it released such a volley on a Star Destroyer, it would be destroyed immediately. The Death Star would be more difficult to overcome, but if a few Starships channelled their warp power through the navigational deflector dish and released that power right at the Death Star, I think it would do the trick!

Now for a question. Why are DS9 starfleet uniforms different from TNG ones?

William Marsh - Atherstone

To Dawn Tittley - I think you jumped to the wrong conclusion about my letter in N/L 28. I was complaining at someone else for complaining about lack of involvement; I didn't say anything like blaming anyone for not talking to me. And if you want to talk to someone, I will. I think your letter should have been directed towards the same person my comment was.

To Maureen Hollinsworth - I agree with you, everyone slags Bill Shatner off but I think he's a good actor and most of the things he has done are good. It is a rather bad way to treat a man who helped make Star Trek what it is. It seems people make jokes about him because everyone else does so. Why do we British never shut up?

To Taruka Quauhtezcatl - No, I haven't seen Planet Earth or Questor Tapes. Has anyone out there got a copy I can borrow? (70 Old Farm Rd, Mancetter, Atherstone, Warks, CV9 1QW) I'll look out for you at a con, probably UFP '94.

To Harvinder Singh - I liked your story about your visit to HMV in the last N/L. It's a wonder you didn't come across a Borg - the person behind the counter usually looks half dead.

Neil Christie - Aberdeen

How long will it be before CIC and/or Paramount realise that the badge/logo on the back of the video box, is from the movies not from the Next Generation/DS9 era. Also the Bajoran proverb on the video box is in fact something said by Sisko to the Aliens in the wormhole in the pilot episode.

Sandra Edge - Northwich, Cheshire

As Sky has started to repeat STNG from the beginning and has shown The Naked Now, does anyone else agree it's time for another fun episode? Jean-Luc's behaviour with Dr Crusher and Data's very self satisfied look were brilliantly portrayed and it was simply the funniest show ever. Their combined comedic skills and timing are severely underused in the series. In all probability the out-takes could be comedy classics. Why cannot Paramount be

prevailed upon to compile them? [Could it just be a matter of all ST and STNG fans inundating them with letters or suggesting they'd make a lot of money from resales]. Allowing fans the opportunity to see another side of the cast and crew during the making of the series. *[Janet: I think it is the actors you have to convince - not Paramount.]*

To Bill Taylor - Having read the postbag re: your article and its effect on membership. Unless you feel that you are the product of your article's reasoning, it was a wind-up and you certainly managed to produce quite a result. Maybe next time you try to create the same kind of postbag mega-interaction, you'll come up with something other than very tired male chauvinism. Sorry Bill, the end does not justify the means, do try to be more innovative next time.

Jill Clements - Bexleyheath, Kent

Having bought over the years all the Star Trek books I must agree that the standard of story and in some cases of writing has fallen. I have re-read a few recently, and Diane Duane and A C Crispin still take some beating. Women are definitely superior at writing the Spock stories. The men seem to miss the point of the attraction. In my case it is mostly cerebral. (NO REALLY).

Have you ever had a newsletter debate or discussion on Who you would be in Star Trek (any form) and why? If so, who was the favourite female character? For me it would be Beverly. Great looks, wonderful career, friends like Data. AND she can tap dance. I do have days when I wish I was Guinan, maybe then I could work out the finer points of living a serene life. *[Janet: No we've never had such a debate - maybe you've just started one!]*

Chris Coxon - Winchelsea, Sussex

Did Shatner have a ghost writer for his TekWar novels? - I seem to recall an early review of the first book giving the name of the ghost writer. *[See article on Shatner elsewhere in the N/L.]*

Shatner's spoof role in Loaded Weapon is of the arch villain - he (the baddie) is

obviously a raging gay - he plays it very well! Also look out too for the brilliant Scotty cameo - same film - police officer - coffee machine sketch - cracked me up as it was totally unexpected. After that I kept expecting Sulu, Uhura, Bones and Chekov to appear at any time.

Charles A. McWhan - Aberdeen

To Michael Farquhar - Re Starfleet ranks. In most military organisations, there are two rank "streams" for commissioned officers: general duties or line and specialist.

A general duties or line officer's training is designed to lead, eventually, to a command. A specialist officer is just that - a specialist. In an emergency, someone holding a specialist commission could take command, but would relinquish command to a senior line officer as soon as possible, even if the line officer was of a lower rank..

One example. In the Royal Navy, there is someone with the rank of Surgeon Rear Admiral; a specialist. He would not, under ordinary circumstances, tell a commander in command of a ship, how to do his job (unless a medical problem occurred).

Hope this helps make things clearer.

Brigitte Doran - Liverpool

To D Flack - the access code to open the door on Alpha Proxima in the computer game, Star Trek 25th Anniversary is 10,200 (99 in base 3) and if you need any more help let me know.

Can anyone tell me what the Romulan language is called?

Linda Ware - Harrogate

It is a pity about the slow down in zine publications and readership, I do buy all the books and must admit most are only worth a skim through. The only recent ones I can honestly recommend have been Pandora Principle, Doctor's Orders, Imzadi and Metamorphosis. Zines do have much better characterisation and more interest to Trek fans in particular. I've been collecting since the early 70's when Alnitah was available in the now defunct Dark they Were and Golden

Eyed bookstore in Soho. My favourite zines were Alnitah, Federation Outpost and of course Log Entries, which I discovered at issue 26, but have also manage to find some early ones 2nd hand. Those, as well as Kay Stagg's and Sue Embury's and the BSFR ones always ensure high quality. Beyond that I've found the quality of the stories a bit erratic and wouldn't order "unseen", as they do cost more than the professional books. Could IDIC perhaps include a "reader's recommendation" section for those who don't feel up to complete reviews but have particularly enjoy a zine. They could be a couple of lines as to why and a note as to the type of story, whether its particularly if interest to Kirk fans, H/C, K/S, Alternate Universe etc.

[Janet - we would certainly be pleased to print such lists.]

Peter J Poole - Stenhousemuir

IDIC 29, another interesting and well rounded edition. Herewith my thoughts and comments...

To Bjo Trimble: Hands of the Prophets should have been a really good episode, unfortunately the writers copped out by having the fundamentalist be 'a bad person' and letting this somehow obviate the validity of her point of view... most disappointing.

To Rebekah Owens: In a similar vein, IBM's flagship operating system for mainframes (their terminology, honestly!) is MVS/ESA, where ESA stands for Enterprise Systems Architecture, a system which features Hiperspaces, or High Performance Address Spaces which allow for rapid access and manipulation of data segments..... Truth really is stranger than fiction I guess!

To David Styles: Novels are novels, comics are comics, graphic novels are a curious hybrid which individually can have the best and/or worst of each parents qualities. I'll agree that pretending one thing is the other is not a smart move, but your general comment seems a little too sweeping for my tastes..... would you care to clarify, quantify or expand on your theme at all? On another topic, the registration numbers of ships might go as high as 65430 or whatever,

but that doesn't necessarily mean that all those numbers have been allocated sequentially or that all those ships are still in service - as you also point out - but the 40 ships lost at Wolf 359 were the ships fast enough and powerful enough to get there in time to intercept and engage the Borg, ie: the cream of the crop, 40 aircraft carriers as opposed to 40 fisheries protection trawlers, probably also crewed by the Federations most experienced officers... that kind of loss would hurt, more for quality than quantity though.

To Maureen Hollinsworth: You really supply the answer yourself, Bill Shatner is popular, as in appealing to the populace, as in what Joe Punter (or indeed Jo Puntress) will go shell out money for. So are or were Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, hoola hoops and deely-bobbers. Popularity is not necessarily related to intrinsic worth or quality.

And finally, to David J Raper: Aaaaargh! I checked, and you're right. ST III, page 128, the cloaking device occasionally sends people nuts. Dammit, I read that book once, over 7 years ago, and I guess it just stuck in my subconscious until earlier this year when I wrote 'my' theory on why the Federation doesn't use cloak technology. If anyone wants me for the next few days, I'll be in my room, sulking and sticking pins in my subconscious!

Helen White - Depression City, Arizona (oh, okay then, Bracknell)

First of all, sorry to anyone I owe a letter or whatever to; unfortunately I've been suffering a severe bout of depression just lately, and have only just got up the 'oomf' to do anything at all apart from get through the day as best I can. I'll be in touch as soon as I'm well enough.

A couple of bits of info: 1) If you join the Official Star Trek Fan Club of the UK (a snip at £14.99 per year, aargh) **DO NOT** buy any Trek 'toys' from them; the prices are way OTT. They are selling an ST alarm clock for £29.99 plus postage (£16.99 in Argos) and the working model Enterprise D and shuttlecraft Goddard for £32.99 each, again plus postage

(£26.99 or so in Toys'R'Us). Even the 'Action Figures' are £1 dearer (plus that postage) from TOSTFCSTU than at either of the above 'retail outlets' (or 'shops' as we doctors call them).

Incidentally, the alarm clock is excellent - whoever designed it obviously got input from fans, as it has a 'demo' mode ("Caution! Repeated use of this function will decrease battery life!") So far I have had the clock about two hours, and the batteries must be nearly flat already...

2) Pizza Hut are selling Star Trek cups with their children's meals. They're 99p each, and if you're very lucky (ahem) you may be able to buy them without also having to buy a pizza or similar item. There are 4 cups, and the lids have an original Enterprise, a Bird of Prey, a Romulan Warbird thingy and a 'working' communicator, tee hee (the top flips open and you can press the buttons). They're really jolly good value and great fun; well done, Pizza Hut. (Now bring back the sundaes and you'll be the best food place in the galaxy.)

SPOILER ALERT! I have just seen part 1 of Descent, and it's the best cliff-hanger yet! Clearly Brent will have to be in at least episode 1 of season 7; he's got rather a major role in Part 1! What can Picard be thinking of, though, leaving Bev in charge? I can just imagine it: "How can we rescue the Away Team?" "I don't know." "Oh, dear, the Enterprise is about to be seriously mashed by horrendous alien forces, what can we do, Doctor?" "I have no idea..."

ANOTHER SPOILER ALERT! I have also just seen The Forsaken (DS9 Lwaxana Troi episode) and it's the best yet; absolutely superb acting from Majel and Rene.

Right, to business. To Alex Pidd - Re Marina at Warp One. Certainly you're entitled to your opinion, but I don't agree at all. I can generally spot a 'phoney' a mile off - especially when I'm headed for a depression, as one of the first symptoms is that I get dreadfully cynical, and I was already pretty ill at Warp One. Me and me mates were sitting right at the front on both

days of Marina's talks, and I detected no such phoniness. I have also met Marina 'privately' (at the gala at Seatrek '91, where I was at her table) and she is a lovely person, if totally mad (as are all the best people, ahem). At Warp One she came over as nervous, to me; as she said, it was her first UK con and she was with a 'home crowd', who are often more critical than 'strangers'.

To Chris Bailey & Dave Styles - Re 'Graphic Novels'. I never buy comics, I mean 'graphic novels', as I find the illustrations not a patch on a) the original item/person or b) my (lunatic) imagination.

To Edward (where was it you said you lived?) Woo & Chris Coxon - Re DS9 theme. I love the DS9 music, but I found it took a few episodes for it to 'take hold'. I can now whistle it with ease (or at least go "da, da da dah, da da da da dur!" etc).

To Jill Clements - Re 'attractive Klingons' - Sacrilege! Worf is by no means the only attractive Klingon - for a start, there's Colonel Worf (yes, okay), Kang, Brigadier K'erla (my spellchecker sadly doesn't have a Klingon section), General Korrd (yes, really); the list goes on...

To Neil Barrett - Re 'leching'. Are you either a) a very fat Klingon with long hair, b) a thin Klingon with long hair or c) a Vulcan (also with long hair, for preference, or Spock would do fine)? I don't lech outside my own species, I'm afraid.

To Ronald Reid - Hello, are you a new member? Re your quiz - had I not been mired in depression, I would have entered it, raising the number of entries to 3. I myself did a couple of prize quizzes quite a while ago for IDIC (and the prizes were pretty good, too; it was a club thing, not done by me personally, so to speak). I believe the most entries we ever had was 11 (or should that be 'were 11'?) Besides that, when I did my first opinion poll for IDIC, I received only 22 replies. It would be great if you did some more quizzes anyway, even without prizes; I have the most trivial of brains, and I was pushed to answer some of your questions!

Lesley Jones - Stourport on Severn

This month I feel as though I've died and gone to heaven. After years of lone worship of ST I've just tapped into a previously unsuspected vein of ST culture in this country.

A little notice in a Worcester bookshop (Stargazer) led me to the Holodeck Convention, and thence to the IDIC table in the dealers' room.

What a warm, friendly welcome I got there - marvellous to talk to fellow fans who don't mock my enthusiasm! I've just finished reading my first IDIC newsletter from cover to cover and think it's just great.

I bought my first ever fanzine there - a little dubiously I admit - but now I can't wait to get hold of more. I'm a devotee of Classic Trek, especially Kirk, Spock and McCoy, and would appreciate any recommendations for reading material.

I should add, in view of one or two items in the postbag, that any derision of JTK or Bill Shatner will leave my pen red-hot in his defence.

Gary Heron - Falkirk

To Bill Taylor - Your views on women's evolution in N/L 28 were very interesting and I would like to add my comments. Firstly, as has been pointed out, any reduction in intelligence as envisioned by you would affect both sexes. Secondly, intelligence and ambition do not preclude the desire to have children.

I would argue that the main reasons for a woman's wish to have a career being a pressure against her having children is lack of child care facilities and a lack of men prepared to play an equal role in child rearing (although many men are hampered in their desire to help by the almost non-existence of paternity leave and the disparity in wages). In the future that Star Trek portrays these problems have been alleviated. Perhaps it was pressure from all the successful female officers and captains on Starfleet which resulted in the inclusion of families on Starships.

On the more general subject of birth rates in the 24th century it is obvious from the TNG episodes in which we see Earth that the rate of population growth must be very close to, if not exactly, zero; if they had continued with the current rate of increase into the 24th century then any visit to Earth would look like a clip from Mark of Gideon.

I really enjoyed Contagion '93 and my first go at stewarding. The only thing at the con I didn't enjoy was the talk from Absolute Field Marketing, which was preceded by a very long and very boring video of film trailers, the purpose of which was never fully explained. I may be misjudging them completely but while sitting in the audience I got the distinct feeling we were all being looked on as lambs for the slaughter; I kept expecting to hear the phrases 'Resistance is futile' and 'All will be assimilated'. On a positive note they were talking about encouraging British manufacturers to produce Star Trek items and thus save the British consumer the added cost of importing. *[Sheila - Their talk at Holodeck said to me very clearly that they had learned a few lessons at Contagion about the response they could expect from card-carrying fans. They certainly sounded far more reasonable in what they were offering. However, I remain unconvinced that £14.99 for 4 magazines is good value for money.]*

Gaile Wood - Tamworth

To Michael Farquhar - Don't forget Sulu was among those (you couldn't have kept him from doing it if you'd tied him to a space station! Loyalty speaks volumes...) involved in the theft of the Enterprise when they all hopped off to find Spock. 'Twas against the rules, so far as I understand it, and after the Original crew had saved Terra from the Probe they all had their wrists firmly smacked. So it stands to reason that any promotion due to Sulu would have been put on hold.

To Alex Pidd - Considering the... er... content of Marina's talks at Warp One, I would have supposed this to be the major reason as to why she didn't want them recorded. And I have to spring to her defence concerning her sincerity. I was stewarding,

so sat in the front rows (rank does have its privileges(?)) and could see she was truly, deeply affected. Moved, say I, to tears. Yes, I agree her delivery was Americanised and sometimes came over as an act, but that last was real Marina Sirtis. The only thing I can't forgive is how she now pronounces 'thorough'. Ugh!

To Karen Davies - Re the ship that could fire when cloaked. Klingon culture is, was, very cloak and dagger, the military being separate from other sections of the society. So, if that's a truism (and it's only a theory) why would Gorkon know about the development in cloaking (pardon the pun) technology? Come on, a diplomat knowing owt about warriors? *[Thanks to all the others who commented on this.]*

To David J Raper - Worf's ponytail... hmm. Maybe it is a little better than the previous coiffure, but it's still not right. I personally feel it's a wee bit twee, too neat, and should be more ragged. If we're talking 'real world', I think Michael Dorn's prosthetics should be redesigned as you can now spot the join. Good fun, that; "where does his head end, I wonder...?"

To Kevin B Thomas - Re reading the book first - I'll give you a hint - NEVER, EVER expect a screenplay to live up to the promise of the novel. That's a maxim which doesn't stand just for Trek, but for many genre. Take Dune, for example, which is possibly one of the best SF novels written this century, and what do 'they' do with it? Bollocks it up, that's what. Out went the politics, which was an integral part of the book, for fancy special effects. There are lots of others I could cite, eg Shogun. A truly awful TV programme, but an exceptional book.

To Stephen Shaw - Are you confusing those who write and read H/C with the folk who would actually *like* to see pain and suffering inflicted on another person? I hope not, because I do, I think, have as a writer a pretty firm grip on reality. The suffering in H/C is not always of the physical variety, and often consists of angst or chest-beating. Sometimes both. Anguish, in fact. We are, in

this type of story, indulging our own capacity for self-beration. But that's only my opinion...

As for violence generally. I am, and have been, the victim of violence - as a child and as a young adult. These things shaped me into who I am, and for the most part I have learned to handle the residue adroitly. I cannot say they never have any effect on me now, because that would not be true. It has made me strong - and bloody-minded...

Lastly, to all of KAG. Hiya, lads! Ah, but it's a sad day when a fellow member of the female variety has all her suspicions confirmed. You're a bunch of girlies, aren't you? Tut, tut, tut... Wanna borrow any of my makeup?

Barry O'Doherty - Maghera, Derry, Ireland

To Jason Wells - Re Klingon Attack Cruiser. The literature I've seen (TNG Tech Manual, Chronology, Starlog magazines, etc) all say Vor'cha Class. However, during the alternate timeline in Yesterday's Enterprise the three Klingon ships are identified by Wesley Crusher as K'vort Class.

To Michael Farquhar - As I see it, medical staff (including CMOs and Counselors), because they are staff officers are not in the actual chain of command. However, in relation to the physical and mental health of the crew (including the Captain) CMOs, and to a lesser extent Counselors, can use their titular powers. It may also be noted that in emergencies (eg Deanna Troi in Disaster and Beverly Crusher in Descent) medical staff, by virtue of their rank and seniority, may assume command responsibilities.

To Marie Park - Re the Efrosians/Deltans - I thought Deltans were hairless (apart from eyebrows/eyelashes)...

To Ann Peters - There is a large difference between a culture which is in stagnation and a culture living in balance with nature.

To Neil Barrett - Most cadets are commissioned as ensigns upon graduation,

but don't forget that Valeris graduated from the Academy top of her class. It is thus likely she was commissioned as a lieutenant. Also a cadet is a student of the Academy of any rank - thus Valeris' red undershirt?

To Brenda Allen - A midshipman is a cadet assigned to a vessel for instructional purposes, but not yet graduated from Starfleet Academy.

Wesley was born in 2349 and Yesterday's Enterprise takes place in 2366. By my calculations that makes him 16 or 17 years old. Since in time of war exceptional effort is necessary, he probably volunteered and Picard gave him a field commission to Ensign (he was wearing commissioned officer's uniform).

A more likely scenario (since the Federation had been at war for 20 years) is that he was conscripted into Starfleet or enrolled at the Academy and was assigned to the Enterprise. Before you object, who's to say that Bev and Jack met and had Wesley at exactly the same times in the alternate timeline...

David J Raper - Keyingham, N Humberside

Any opinions on DS9? Having just seen some episodes, I thought I'd offer an opinion - namely I like it so far, there is room for improvement and here's hoping it gets better. If it follows the same pattern as TNG it will get better, but it still takes some getting used to! If ever there's a contrast with the Pride of Starfleet (the Enterprise) it has to be DS9. In the episode Captive Pursuit, O'Brien describes it as a 'flea market' and I can see his point - I can imagine DS9 with fleas and bugs and who knows what! DS9 was one step short of the scrap heap when the Federation took it over, and seems on the verge of falling to pieces every other episode!

About the seventh and last season of TNG - does anyone know who to write to at Paramount to protest this tragedy? I know the plan is for TNG to get onto the big screen for ST VII, but given the choice I would sooner have 20+ hours of TNG on the small screen rather than 2 at the cinema. It's a pity though that Paramount never had the sense

to start making Trek movies sooner.

To Sheila Clark - It may make sense to 'try out' a new commander on a smaller ship such as a cruiser or destroyer before letting him loose on a Starship, but Sulu was hardly inexperienced to begin with. On a number of occasions he commanded the Enterprise in the absence of Kirk and Spock; and in the time between ST V and ST VI it is quite possible that he commanded some other ship. The book or ST II & ST III made it quite clear that he was in line to command the Experimental Excelsior before the Genesis controversy anyway, though his subsequent actions (stealing the Enterprise etc) would not have sat too well on those who decided such things in Starfleet.

To Bjo Trimble - I am quite sure that they have a Swiss army knife of sorts in the 24th century, though what gadgets it might have are anybody's guess, aside from the inevitable device for taking stones out of horses' hooves. The point I was trying to make is that pockets are useful, which may explain why certain Starfleet uniforms have pockets.

To Marie Park - You have a point about Perrin, her over-protective attitude to her husband could too easily have kept Spock and Sarek apart, simply because Spock would not wish to cause his ailing father distress. It seems only too likely that Spock would adopt the most 'logical' course and stay away when confronted with Perrin's determination to protect her husband. One thing is clear, however, that no matter what had passed between them, Sarek loved his son, and believed in him to the end.

To Neil Barrett - The Lydia Sutherland was part of a larger flotilla when it was destroyed, but the first duty of Starfleet has always been exploration and research, and it stands to reason that with a shortage of ships Starfleet would employ its ships as and when required. I expect that for the majority of its existence, the Lydia Sutherland operated alone.

Finally a word about ST VII. If it is their plan to have at least some of Kirk's crew

making an appearance with the TNG crew, I only hope they do a good job of it! I always thought it would be interesting to see an encounter between the generations. If that is their plan, I only hope that they take the time to invest in a script worthy of Gene Roddenberry.

Stephen Daniels - Smailholm nr Kelso

Over the past two months I have binged on videos of ST in all its incarnations. Here is my opinion of the films, having watched them in close succession. ST:TMP - a good film but it lingered too long showing off the special effects, and if this floating computer V'ger was so clever, you'd think it could rub away a bit of mud to see its proper name! STII:TWOK - I thoroughly enjoyed this film, Ricardo Montalban's strong acting was very convincing, but what did puzzle me was how Khan knew Chekov when they had never met before. STIII:TSFS - This one was a wee bit corny what with Spock's body being reborn just to the right age. STIV:TVH - I loved this film and could watch it again and again; a great bit of comic relief. STV:TFF - I liked it until Spock neck-pinned the horse. STVI:TUC - Great plot, great effects, and great acting (I did have to watch it 2 or 3 times more to get the gist of it!)

The one thing that spoiled the first five films for me was the packaging; it was dreadful. The main container box was about an inch wider at the top than at the bottom, and the individual boxes were all becoming unglued.

Is there an address for CIC Video, because I would like to write to them about a couple of things, eg BSKyB showing ST:TNG that CIC hasn't released yet. When I spoke to a gentleman in the Virgin Megastore in Edinburgh he said that they were only expecting one TNG video release (cassette 70) round about September 6. It seems that DS9 is hogging the limelight. Re DS9, what a grim programme. It is dark and dingy and really quite uninspiring. Having said that, I do like the theme tune and the video is very nicely packaged! But I doubt I will buy it on those merits. [Ed: Write to Terry Shuttleworth, Product Manager Universal and TV, CIC UK 4th Floor, Glenthorne

House, 5-17 Hammersmith Grove,
Hammersmith, London W6 0ND.]

Jamie Boast - Beccles

I find the idea of having a map of Federation charted space on the spines of the DS9 videos rather absurd as it cannot encompass three dimensions; also this means that we cannot say that Bajor is to the west of Federation space, as west is a compass direction. There is no gravity in space, so no compass could actually work. These directions only apply on planets.

In The Next Generation, the planets that are discovered must be different distances to the sun in their solar systems than Earth is to the Sun in ours; this means that gravity must be different on the different planets - the different sizes of the planets would affect this too. This may be the reason why Romulans are physically stronger than Humans (mentioned in the book The Romulan Prize). Increased gravity means that Romulan muscles would have to develop more to work against the higher gravity on Romulus. The gravity on Remus must also be different, meaning that Romulans from one planet must be stronger than others. Unfortunately it looks like we are never to see the Romulans, Andorians, etc, outside the cinema, and there are none of these races on DS9.

I am also confused between Starfleet and the UFP; are they one and the same, or are they different?

Re Holodeck scrolling - What if the holodeck is set on scroll mode and there are two people in it? It can't, obviously, scroll for them both. Wouldn't a more realistic idea than the holodeck be a virtual reality system similar to that on Lawnmower Man? This would save more space and visual patterns directed onto the retina (as seen on the games in The Game) would give more reality than the holodeck. Why does DS9 have a holosuite? I thought that was the latest Federation technology.

I am desperate to get my hands on a Starfleet uniform (possibly admiral) - is there anywhere I can get these?

Lee Owers Sansome - Tamworth

Re Worf's ponytail; I've got nothing against it in principle, except that I don't think it flatters Michael Dorn at all. But I do wonder what, if anything, has been done to his head-piece? In profile, Worf's forehead now appears to have corners. Could this lead to a Trek/Dwarf crossover?

To Lorraine Poole - I agree that Crusher seems bored rigid most of the time. Perhaps someone ought to introduce her to Benjamin Sisko - seems like a match made in heaven to me.

To Maureen Hollinsworth - I agree with everything you said concerning the bad press Bill Shatner has had since ST V. Personally, I'm sick to death with people putting him down. I don't want to sit and listen to a Guest of Honour (whether it's a member of the cast or a former research consultant) slagging him (or any other members of the cast) off. I go there to be entertained, not to hear their opinions of others' shortcomings. And as to fans joining in the slanging match, how on earth do they know what the man is like? How many of those fans have actually met Bill? Do they honestly believe everything they read in the newspapers? It saddens me that so many Trek fans seem to be enjoying this. Whatever happened to our belief in IDIC?

To Stephen Shaw - I think someone might have been embroidering the truth a little here. Yes, K/S zines have been targeted by Customs in the past (though God knows why when you see some of the really offensive pornography readily available here in the UK) but three Customs officers and a policeman? Give me a break! The text of K/S is not illegal. At the very worst, the occasional illo skirts the law (I can't say why in a family newsletter, but the reason is particularly outdated and foolish). I cannot see the powers that be coming out in such force for such a trivial infringement. I was unfortunate enough to have a zine seized some years ago, and all I received was a standard letter from Customs informing me that it infringed the O.P Act and that it would be destroyed within 30 days unless I presented evidence to the contrary. And a

few months ago I received an envelope containing two USA zines which had been opened then resealed. It was clearly marked "Opened by UK Customs" and was delivered by the postman. I'll let you know if I get raided, but I'm not losing any sleep over the possibility. I think Customs are, quite rightly, far more concerned with intercepting paedophilia and other damaging pornography - rather than wasting their time on some harmless erotica.

To Gaile Wood - And I suppose you couldn't be accused of li(c)king Worf episodes?!!

To Nic Farey and all Team Holodeck - I'd just like to say thanks for a great convention! All those panel discussions and debates which spilled over into the bar kept me on a high all weekend. There truly is life beyond the video room. When can we do it again?

Dejan Ladika - Slovenia

DS9 - I saw the pilot and two episodes more. I liked it, but the producers will have to work a lot if they are to 'hook' me. The best of all are the special effects. The appearance of the wormhole is outstanding. The best character so far? I don't know yet. Quark is cool, as is Odo, but Rene Auberjonois just doesn't fit the part. Don't get me wrong, I hope I'll change my mind. Then the opening sequence - I missed "Space - the final frontier. These are the explorations of Star Station DS9..." or something like that. This is really an un-Trek move from the makers, but most of all what is bothering me is that the creators are using all possible popularity of TNG to make their show excellent. All the best TNG guest characters made guest appearances, also three major aliens. I was hoping there will be a Romulan.

I must say DS9 is a great TV show and it's wonderful that ST is continuing.

Alan Stephen - Aberdeen

To David Styles - Your comment (N/L 29) "it is a sad indictment of our society that literature has degenerated to a point where we pretend comics are novels in order to hide our illiteracy" really annoyed me.

I am a comic book reader. Enjoying comic books does not mean that I am some slope-brained moron; I work as a manager of an electrical company for contracts up to £2 million, meaning that I am literate, intelligent, articulate - I have to be or the company that employs me and pays my salary and provides me with a company car would quickly give me my P45 if I wasn't.

I have friends I meet regularly who are also comic book fans. Most are university graduates; others are managers, accountants, or are at some form of further education.

Admittedly, the book that Chris Bailey reviewed was a collection of comic books, and not a graphic novel. If you would like to read a graphic novel may I suggest Maus by Art Spiegelman, which won a Pulitzer Prize, or Spiral Cage by Al Davison, which is the autobiography of his life with spina bifida. If you find anything other than Star Trek a challenge, may I suggest Debt of Honour by Chris Claremont and Adam Hughes, an excellent addition to the Star Trek mythos and a damn fine book. Graphic novel or comic, call it what you will, but do not insult the majority of comic book readers who, I assure you, are not illiterate.

After all, when all is said and done, in this newsletter we're dealing with Star Trek - admittedly an enjoyable programme, but hardly brain-taxing. If I want something more worthwhile I'll read the poems of Walt Whitman or Our Lady of the Flowers by Jean Genet.

Don't denigrate comics; there is fine work being done. Sandman by Neil Gaiman (recommended by Normal Mailer), Concrete by Paul Chadwick (given the five-star treatment by Harlan Ellison) or in the past, the work of Will Eisner, Milton Coniff or Frank Hampson.

Nothing annoys me more than someone with a minority interest attacking others with another minority interest.

It seems to be only in the English-speaking world that comics are held in contempt; in Europe and Japan comic

creators are treated like pop stars and their work sells in the millions. Perhaps it is because our comic books are too full of super-heroes like Captain Kirk, Spock, Captain Picard or Riker?

Harvinder Singh - Southwick, Sunderland

To Edwin Yau - ST meeting SW? We know that the Emperor is dead, and Darth Vader is all but a bunch of ashes. What's left of the Empire is probably being defeated by the Luke Skywalker gang, so the Empire would tender an application to join the Federation in order to preserve themselves. Alternatively they could have a war with the Federation which they would lose.

Who says the Borg ship cannot blow up a planet? They might have a weapon to in their ship able to do this. The reason they have not used this weapon yet is probably that their mission is to assimilate everybody and everything into a Borg.

I have now seen sixteen episodes of DS9 and I think it's pretty good. I'd say DS9 has had an excellent start to its first season compared to other sci-fi shows. The best episode so far would have to be Captive Pursuit, because it was such a great episode and had O'Brian in it more than the others. To all you who have seen it, may the Tosk die with honour.

If a Ferengi looks like the Nagus when he gets old, who would want to be a Ferengi with more wrinkles than you'd have gold latinum bars.

Questions

Ross McIntyre - Would it be possible to put a card reinforced cover on the newsletter, with a picture on it?

Janet - Not really. A card cover would weigh as much as two or three sheets of paper, so we would lose up to 8 pages of the newsletter. Either that or have to put the membership dues up by at least 50p to cover the excess postage. While we could use coloured paper for the cover the print might not show up very well on it.

David W Parsons - I have recently been

reminded of a poster I saw in a magazine somewhere. It shows the Enterprise 1701-D with sections cut away to reveal the various decks and facilities on board. I would consider it a valuable addition to my TNG collection. Does anyone have the address/telephone number of the company who sell them and the price of said article?

Natalie Kennedy - Can you give me any info on where to buy TNG merchandise such as the board game, uniform top, comm badge and rank pips.

Try Sheffield Space Centre, 33 The Wicker, Sheffield. They carry a big stock of collectables, including posters.

Anthony Ryan - Why didn't Sky One show the TNG season cliffhanger, Descent? Surely they have the rights to this programme as it is part of the 6th season.

Rightly or wrongly, they probably decided not to show it until they had purchased the 2nd part in the 7th season.

Can You Help?

Shirley Read - Could you please tell be where I can buy photographs of Walter Koenig or Chekov?

Sue Hooper - Can anyone tell me if there is a John de Lancie Fan Club?

Bryan Miller - Can you tell me where to get the Physical Review Letters which contain the paper on Matter Transportation as we Know It in N/L 29?

Charles McWhan - Can anyone tell me the stardates for TNG 6th season episodes?

Vera Regina Schweitzer - Our SF group are making Star Trek uniforms from the films STII - STVI. Our problems is that we need to know the various insignia (badges, pips, stripes etc) for the ranks of Lieutenant, Captain, Commodore, Admiral & Fleet Admiral - from each film. Can anyone help with information or photos.

☆☆☆☆

EXCUSE ME... OH, PARDON ME... I'M SORRY... EXCUSE ME...
NO, IT'S MY FAULT... RIGHT, GET OUT OF THE BLOODY WAY!

A KLINGON IN NEW YORK

a report by Robert Kirkwood

I won't bore you with a travelogue of New York but instead skip right to Sunday, June 27th 1993 at 11 o'clock, standing in a queue - sorry, *line* - round the block from the Ramada in New York, opposite Madison Square Gardens. My Contagion T-shirt attracted a few remarks but obviously not enough to prise a conversation out of any of my line-mates. Fortunately the line moved reasonably quickly, so before long I was registering for my first ever American convention. No fiddling with badges here; we all got lovely shiny hand stamps which were great until you got washed and then returned to registration to sheepishly explain that you didn't know they came off quite so easily.

The convention was basically two

rooms - the main hall and dealers' room. But oh, *what* a dealers' room. Imagine the dealers' room at Warp One - now imagine another four. You could buy anything from half destroyed Enterprises with light up explosions to real steel Klingon weapons, from Bajoran ear-rings to copies of Sex Trek: The Next Penetration. Now imagine the prices from Warp One - multiply *them* by four.

I didn't buy much.

The main hall held everything else; guest talks, auction and the Creation musical tributes which were slides and video clips of selected actors set to an appropriate piece of music. I felt that these were feeble attempts to waste time between guest talks in order to

get us to go to the dealers' room (which you had to walk through in order to get to the main hall anyway) and to part with even more cash.

The guests were terrific - Armin Shimerman, Nana Visitor and DeForest Kelley, all of whom were signing autographs or, in De's case, had presigned autographs for sale. The way this worked was that, immediately after the talk, the particular guest was rushed away to a table where a gigantic queue had already formed - so basically you either watched the talk or you queued for an autograph. Fortunately, in Nana Visitor's case I managed to do both by skipping out early. I still ended up standing in a room with no air conditioning for over two hours. The friend I was with, who is not a fan, could easily have killed me.

I know this is an incredibly short con report, but it was an incredibly short con, from 11 in the morning to 7 in the evening... and all in all, a bit of a waste of time. Bar the guest talks I could have spent a better day at the Glasgow Away Team. At least people talk to you there. All I can say is, without a shadow of a doubt, the Americans want to try a British con; they don't know what they're missing.

Fast forward to Tuesday 29th June, to the MTR (The Museum of Television and Radio) to the ST:The Next Generation gallery exhibition. I was flying out on the Tuesday night and therefore had to be back at the hotel by around 1.30 in the afternoon... I found out about the exhibition on Sunday, the MTR was closed on Monday and didn't open until 12 noon on the Tuesday; I had an hour and a half.

I shouldn't have worried. The MTR is basically an archive storage where anyone can go to view past TV episodes on personal monitors, along with group screenings of selected programmes - in this case, ST:NG. The exhibit was a selection of props along a top floor corridor and a variety of costumes set out downstairs - with a major drawback. No photos or videos (I even got in trouble filming from the street through the front windows.) On the up side, however, I did get

a close look at fully dressed Klingons, a Romulan, a Ferengi, a Borg, a Cardassian, Guinan's outfit, the Perfect Mate wedding dress and some props including Geordi's visor, various padds, Klingon weapons, tricorders etc. Along the upstairs corridor were various latex heads such as all manifestations of the Dauphin, the creatures from Worf's holodeck program and even the Tamarian Captain. Perhaps the most interesting display, however, was a photographic breakdown of the building of the temple from Rightful Heir, going into far too much detail to list here - but showing it from a balsa wood pile to a finished set and finally showing the completed episode on a video wall at the far end. Impressive, got to go - I've got a plane to catch.

There we are - a short report from a fleeting visit. Final thoughts? Everyone should try at least one Creation con - if only to appreciate British cons even more. Oh, and a note to the MTR: why do you have the 'no photo' rule? These items have been broadcast globally and yet I can't take a picture. Strange! At least I have the memory.

Qapla!

The following are extracts from the New York Convention Guest talks.

DEFOREST KELLEY

Mr Kelley started off by talking about his days in cowboy movies where in order to work you had to be able to ride - and even if you couldn't, you said you could. He went to on read his latest poem (he started off with The Big Bird's Dream, went on with The Dream Goes On, and this one is The Dream Goes On, And On, And On.) After that, and another couple of cowboy stories he went on to tell the muffin story - where Bill Shatner hid the muffins De was trying to toast. De eventually got his own back; Bill had been telling the story at cons for a while, then at a LA con with all of the cast, De was on before Bill... and told the story himself.

It went on to a question and answer

session. The 'feud' with Spock came about by accident - it was written into one episode and got so much positive response that it was retained. He agreed that he often got letters from people who had been inspired to become doctors, and that Jimmy Doohan also got mail from engineers. Leonard Nimoy, however, didn't - after all, what could a Vulcan inspire anyone to be?

ARMIN SHIRMERMAN

Question and Answer session

Mr Shimerman feels that there is a 'threat' in Quark that he would like to see developed; he would like to see the Ferengi more the way they were originally. They've become treacherous; Quark is in charge of the black market stuff on the station but he would like to explore that threat.

He tends to forget about his makeup once it's on, though he (and Michael Dorn) frequently go for facials so that the makeup doesn't do any permanent damage to their faces. The prosthetic make it difficult for him to hear properly.

The neck cloth worn by most Ferengi came about by accident. In The Last Outpost they discovered that the costume and the make up didn't 'meet' - there was a gap at the back of the head, and only about ten minutes to find a way to fill it. The cloth was the obvious answer. The makeup was redesigned for Quark, to make room for Mr Shimerman's ears, so he has a full head and doesn't need to wear the cloth. He doesn't think any script would show the Ferengi homeworld - too much trouble with the makeup.

Someone asked about a Beauty and the Beast movie. Mr Shimerman said it would be nice if Paramount would release him from his contract to do one.

He enjoys conventions, especially since he can wander around and not be recognised.

Quite often there is only 12 hours between getting the script and shooting. The union says it should be 24, but 12 is quite

usual.

Mr Shimerman only met Gene Roddenberry once, when they were filming The Last Outpost. By the time DS9 had started, Gene was dead.

NANA VISITOR

Question and Answer session

Asked if she would like Kira to have a love interest, Ms Visitor said no, not yet. There was a lot else to develop first.

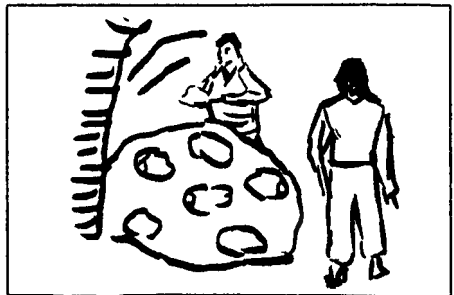
Kira's makeup takes two hours to apply. The nose is glued on with a strong glue that takes half an hour to remove.

Ms Visitor spoke admiringly about Mr Brooks. One time when she was having trouble with a line he began guiding her; told he could go home for the day, he still waited until the shot was in the can.

She hardly knows Ciric Lofton because they haven't had any scenes together - but says that he's grown since the show started!

She felt there were some similarities between the characters of Kira and Yar only because their backgrounds were similar; the two had 'grown up' different.

☆☆☆☆



"Carry on like that, Bones, and we'll have to call you a Horta-culturist!"

CONTAGION

a report by Edward Woo

The hotel was easy to find. I was first in our triple - unpacked, showered, ate and crashed out till Simon arrived. Unfortunately there was no Sky TV so we could catch Relics.

We went down to the lobby for a scout round, finding Stephen (a Klingon), were introduced to Frances and Carol (Sheila's Chain Gang), Zander, Denise, Gaile and found Jean. Nice Troi uniform, Carol! Talking points included bar prices, Trek, kilts, food and holidays. Some went off to feed while we waited for our con packages. Simon wanted to register for 94 but they wouldn't let him (not till Sunday). Up to the eighth floor for videos (Gary's mob went off and saw Jurassic Park).

De and Zander suggested some kind of quiz as an alternative to videos or even Rog's readings. This meant Simon and I had to think up a lot of ST questions in 12 hours - much harder than you think! In our room we dived into books and bounced subjects off each other till 3 am, coming up with a total of 15 questions (some of the best between 2 and 3). Little did we know our neighbours in room 217 were trying to sleep. They returned the favour at 6 am with alarms and bangs.

On Saturday we went for breakfast, then Baggy and Graham arrived. As we hadn't seen each other since Warp One there was plenty to talk about! The dealer's room was just opening; I dropped off a few items for IDIC and the White Horta. Eventually I bought 1 book and 2 magazines. There were others, but I was on a budget. The dealers said fans were careful in a recession.

I volunteered to steward the main hall doors before the opening ceremony - it was a long five minutes! The hall was large, with a stage comprising a backdrop of the original Enterprise and a pair of orange sliding doors. Our guests were introduced - first Richard Arnold, then Jonathan Del Arco, each flanked by two redshirts as they approached the

stage. Finally our GoH, Nichelle Nichols, was introduced. After a delay, the bridge doors opened to reveal Nichelle. Despite jetlag, she was happy to be there, and was met with much applause.

The 'inflight' safety video followed, made by Contagion's pet Klingon (K'Tan vestai Kuragan); then there was a brief respite before Nichelle returned for her guest spot, to a capacity audience.

Next came a change in schedule - we had the CIC video man. Very informative. CIC has no control over Sky's NG schedule. Don't buy DS9 from HMV as they jacked the price from £10.99 to £34.99 to try to increase their profits. Videos will be spread over the next 12 months to spread the cost for fans. CIC/Paramount divisions don't always talk to each other over their ST schedules - hence the confusion.

Richard Arnold came on with his NG slide show, but the tray was faulty so we had DS9 instead - mostly behind the scenes of the 1st season. We had an American view of DS9 with Terry Farrell on video to see how DS9 was made, with interviews of the cast except Avery Brooks and the creators. Odo's mask is comfortable, but glued on. Most actors and actresses and make-up people are awake at 4 am, even working up to 12 midnight.

Jonathan Del Arco was our next guest, giving only hints about his role in Descent II (with a friendly Hugh now!) - in the can three weeks before the con. Since I Borg he's done some TV and film work, and theatre, but there are a lot of actors in LA. He has recently been to India. He tried for the part of Wesley. He loved working with Whoopi and Patrick.

Baggy went for autographs while Simon and I began thinking up more Trek trivia for the quiz before going to eat. During the chomping John realised we were supposed to be in the fancy dress as a certain Klingon was gunning for me (planned but

misfired). We got back to the Wrath of Stephen (with his 'Wanted' poster). As blackmailed, I was in the kilt, but it needed an adjustment (pointed out by other wearers). Baggy got the blame, so he's in for it next time!

We missed the fancy dress while eating; was it good? We had drinks and joined the ceilidh; it was a short two hours. Jonathan was there, but didn't join in. I must say the kilt is impressive as a form of evening wear (and expensive, Stephen told me).

Simon, during this time, was doing the quiz with teams of ten. I heard it went well. Come midnight it was first steward's duty in video one (And the Children Shall Lead and Spock's Brain!) Simon had a 3am duty - about the time I found a nice flat bed!

The alarm went off at 6 (but I'd set it for 7!) It was meant for John, but it didn't quite work. Let's say he had a pounding head (blame Romulan ale) He made it to breakfast before returning to bed again.

On Sunday there were a number of posters plastered around the hotel of a certain 'Wanted' Klingon. Took some art competition photos.

Richard Arnold began his NG slide show (same as Warp One). The news is that all the cast have signed again, with a possible 8th season (unlikely, according to Richard). Gates, Jonathan, LeVar and Brent signed after the deadline - Paramount blackmail. There's a 7th season techno script for La Forge. Barclay returns. They're always looking for Troi and Q stories. DS9 is now accepting fan stories - and Gene never approved DS9. Richard thinks some of the ST merchandise is awful and we shouldn't buy it whilst Paramount's interest is the dollar. Any continuing errors should be pointed out by fans as there is no ST office to oversee it. The Behind the Scenes trading cards caused a slight stir on who would be on them.

Nichelle was a little late as she was being interviewed before coming into the spotlight for her next appearance.

Jonathan followed an hour later. He wanted to cover different topics from yesterday, but Hugh always surfaced.

6 pm came and the charity auction, with 99 items in less than 2 hours. Signed photos were the most sought-after, with Leonard, Patrick and Siddig in the £90s and the rest in the £50s. Autographed trading cards are worth something - at least £40. The Seatrek 93 package fetched £250, Paramount ST kit £185 and DS9 kit £75. Let's say a certain German spent a lot. The IAPPS charity did well. Richard reckoned the most horrid item was two surgical gloves autographed by John de Lancie.

The autograph session was confusing, and I even got 2 spare tickets, but once was enough. I finally got her signature. I asked about her book - it will be published next year. Jonathan did a nice gold signature, and I have Richard's on a decent photo now.

We rested till the steward's party where we stayed a while (till hunger called).

Monday was the anniversary of the first Apollo Moon landings.

Come 7 am we all awoke (but no-one moved!) We packed before breakfast. There was a delayed guest panel of Richard and John (Nichelle had to leave early). It was a Q and A session discussing Gene's ideas, DS9 now more to Gene's philosophy, Paramount's license to make money, Richard's sacking and the lack of continuity now in fact and fiction. With the panel finished came out last chance to spend money.

We all trooped in for the closing ceremony. Jonathan and Richard were escorted by a piper playing the Gene Roddenberry Theme first heard, and named by George Takei, last year. They were given gifts. Jonathan handed out the prizes and certificates to the competition winners. Cheques were handed over to the charities as their representatives came forward. Jonathan finally declared the con closed.

We did a quick hunt around the SF shops then went back for final steward's

duties. Finally (9.30) our last goodbyes were said. (Lesley's got 100 registrations for next year!)

I've remade old friends and met new

ones here. Contagion is the friendliest con - I suppose it's the Scots? I'll be back next year - and so will everyone else, for Baggy's kilt party!

☆☆☆☆

CONTAGION '93 (Not a Con-report)

by Peter Poole

As stated, this is not a con report, It's not even particularly specific to Contagion, although it is shortly after attending that convention that these words are written. We decided to attend the con pretty much at the last minute, holding ourselves back with thoughts of 'it's a luxury', 'we can't really afford this' and other such trivial details until we both more or less said bugger it, we haven't been to a con for almost eighteen months and this one's practically on our doorstep, let's go for it! We're actually pretty lucky too, as regards contacts in fannish circles, being able to see US episodes and hear the news and gossip in a fairly timely fashion, so that maybe puts us out of the normal as regards a number of the con attendees (Normal? Con attendees? Oxymoron! Oxymoron!). We also were not staying at the hotel but commuting in on a daily basis, which precluded attending room parties and late nighting it with fellow fen, which does make a case for detracting slightly from full participation in 'what makes a con a con'.

Enough with the mitigating circumstances already, I guess I'm trying to find reasons, or at least provide a fair background, for why I felt somehow less than I expected to feel at the con.... certainly the factors above do play some part, I think also I had set my hopes too high because this was my first con in such a long time, but for me there was something missing, some spark of insanity that I recall from previous cons. Hell, maybe I'm just getting terminally middle aged and respectable, hankering after the chaos of my younger days that probably never existed anyway!

The convention was well organised, the hotel was excellent and no criticism of the

organising committee is implied or intended! It ain't their fault for any of the above factors, and they put on a very professional convention - I think that might actually be what I missed, now that I think about it. The con was too professional! Let me expand on that thought a while.... there was a room for the guests in which they did their talks - Nichelle was gracious, charming, and has her convention routine down pat, Richard was Richard, same as he ever is, and Jonathan Del Arco was..... ummm. Well, he was cute. Perhaps not everyone's first nomination as a TNG guest, but he was cute. (Find what you're good at and stick to it, as I always maintain). There were presentations from CIC and the Official Star Trek group, plus there were well run, well timed video rooms for original Trek, TNG and DS9, plus a very good alternate media video programme. There was a dealers room with LOTS of merchandise..... apart from Q and A during the guests talks though, there didn't seem to be an awful lot of scope for actual fan involvement though... no panels, no writers workshop, no costume workshop, no mass spontaneous silliness basically. Surely with the discussion and debate that abounds in the IDIC letter columns, someone would have attended 'Kirk vs Picard - Who is the Better Captain?', or TNG vs DS9, or Prime Directive - Good or Bad?. Another thing I'd love to see done at a con is what was done by Harlan Ellison and a bunch of writers at a con in the States years ago, which is that they collaborated on designing a world and writing stories set on it.... Imagine a group of amateur Trek writers - or just fans with ideas - brainstorming in a room, and then linking those ideas together to get one, or two, or a dozen stories outlined and then having people write the suckers..... I'd certainly buy a copy!

Like I said originally, this is not intended particularly as a critique of Contagion, but it's a thought that maybe all the big conventions are getting too smooth,

too professional, and just a little bit away from their roots. I await feedback, death threats and large ticking parcels with eager anticipation.....

☆☆☆☆

NICHELLE NICHOLS AT CONTAGION, GLASGOW

Two talks merged together, reported by Jean Sloan

I have tried really hard to edit this report, but Nichelle Nichols is such a good raconteur that it was very difficult to leave things out. Apologies to those people whose favourite anecdotes I have omitted.

Nichelle was slightly late. She said that she is always late, and that Jimmy Doohan shouts at her for it; however they always make up, which she reckons he enjoys! She was suffering from jet lag (she didn't look like a victim of jet lag, she looked fabulous). After some anecdotes about the ineffectiveness of 'Do not disturb' signs in hotels, she launched a question and answer session by declaring that she knows everything, and what she didn't know, she'd make up.

The first question was about ST 7. She confirmed that the latest rumour was that it would be a Next Gen film with possible guest appearances by the original crew; but she emphasised that she knew as much as we did. The next questioner asked if the rumour about Nichelle doing Next Gen was true. She said that it was an old rumour, and that she had been told by various people that Whoopi Goldberg wants Nichelle to appear as Guinan's daughter. Nichelle would like the rumour spread, as she would enjoy doing it! When asked if she would sing for us she agreed to do so, at the end of the session.

How close did she think Next Gen and DS9 were to Gene Roddenberry's creation? She hasn't seen DS9, but Next Gen WAS Gene's creation. She is all for IDIC and it has never bothered her that NG took over - in fact, she does not see Next Gen and the original series as separate.

How did she feel about the fact that

Uhura inspired a whole generation of women? She feels honoured; in actual fact, she nearly left the show. She told Gene she was leaving; he told her to take the weekend to think about it. Martin Luther King was a great fan of the show, and called her to tell her that she must stay... "Don't you realise the role you have in history? This is not an ordinary show; you have changed history. This is the first non-stereo typical role - not black, not female... it causes everyone in the world who sees it to see us as we should be seen."

She said "Thank you" and went back to Gene Roddenberry who was very moved that someone could see what he was trying to create, a scenario where men and women go as individuals on a mission of peaceful exploration.

The importance of the role was brought home to Nichelle on other occasions; one fan said to her, "I was a little girl when ST was on. I turned on the TV and saw myself in the future. I realised I could be anything I wanted to be."

The fan was Whoopi Goldberg.

Later, realising the power of the role of Uhura, and humbled by it, Nichelle went on to recruit black and female astronauts for NASA. She was present at the opening of the Smithsonian, and at the launch of the space shuttle Enterprise. This was the shuttle which had been named Constitution, but the name was changed to Enterprise after a letter campaign by fans to the President; Nichelle was not instrumental in this change, though she did sign a petition. The President made an edict to have the shuttle name altered, at considerable expense, as the name was

already on the fuselage and that and all the documentation had to be altered.

The next question was whether she had fun with the first inter-racial kiss. Nichelle said that it was a silly question! She and William Shatner were very professional and did not complain once during 36 takes! The studio didn't want it, afraid of public outcry. Gene got it through in script because it was in the future, but the studio insisted on shooting two scenes, one with, one without, the kiss. They saved the scenes until the end of the day and did the kiss scene first. They took 36 takes to get it right, eventually running over time. They started to shoot the without-kiss scene but couldn't make it work. The studio was not prepared to pay overtime, so the kiss scene was in.

Paramount was concerned that there'd be a lot of hate mail; but the response was mostly positive. Gene sent her a copy of one of the worst letters from "a guy from the South". The writer "didn't believe in the mixing of races, but if any red-blooded American boy has a girl as great looking as Uhura in his arms - he ain't going to fight it".

Over her two con sessions, Nichelle was asked many questions about the series and films. In this next section I have tried to edit her answers together.

Her favourite TV episodes are "any time Uhura got off the bridge". Her favourite movies are 2, 4 & 6. She didn't express a preference between series and movies because they are different mediums with different challenges. The series had a six day shooting schedule; the movies were shot over weeks and weeks - movie-making is known as the 'hurry up and wait industry'. Above all she likes live performance - she grew up in musical theatre.

Character development is better in the movies, but she had a lot of fun doing the series, for example filming with the tribbles; they got quite into the idea of tribbles being real (She pleaded for us not to send her any more tribbles!)

One of her favourite scenes is in Mirror

Mirror where she got to 'slap the hell out of George Takei'. She loved the AU uniform and tried to steal it!

On her very first day of shooting ST, she was involved in a car accident on the way to the studio. She had to get up at 4 am. Disorientated by the early hour and by heavy rain, she crashed her Renault, split her lip, cut her knee and bruised her heel. She was taken to Emergency and, as luck would have it, came under the care of a doctor who had in his possession some experimental drugs. Her lip was stitched and new medication was used to take out the swelling and keep her alert; the shot would last for 8 hours; she was warned that after 8 hours she had to go to bed and stay there for 2 days.

She got through the day, though everything seemed 'in slow motion'; as the 8 hours ended, she felt the drug draining away. She always faints in slow motion and that is what she did - over the bridge guard rail and into William Shatner's arms. He drove her home in his black Stingray, and supported her to her front door, which was opened by her son... He didn't know who Bill was; this white man he didn't know was holding his mother. Scared, he asked Bill, "What are you doing to my mother?"

One of Nichelle's most precious memories was the last day of filming the series. There was a big wrap party. Nobody could bring themselves to leave. The hardest part was looking at the bridge for the last time... except that it all happened again.

She couldn't believe it when she was asked to reprise the part of Uhura - it was wonderful. Her first call came from her agent to do a new series - there was no start date. Then Paramount changed their minds; there were to be 3 or 4 episodes per year. The cast were advised by the unions that the studio couldn't just change contracts like that; so the cast were paid off, and contracts renegotiated. With new contracts signed, the company changed its mind again. They would make a major TV movie; so the cast had to be paid off again... THEN the decision was taken to do a major motion picture... so the cast were paid off, etc... When they were

eventually given a start date, Nichelle was outraged! She had earned a nice little sum for doing nothing!

The director, Robert (Bob) Wise, was considered a living legend - white hair, blue eyes, softly spoken; someone who expected to get what he wanted, and who would bite people's heads off, quietly, if he didn't get it. On the first day of shooting, Nichelle walked onto the bridge; everyone was at station - it felt wonderful. The director faced them then suddenly exclaimed, "Ohmygod... It's just finally hit me, I'm not just doing ST: seeing you here on the bridge, I realise I'm working with living legends."

Everyone got very emotional. Bill Shatner exclaimed, "Bob, that's just beautiful," and there wasn't a dry eye on the set. It was an incredible moment. Anyway, the director told them to "take five" only to be told by an irate make-up artist, "You'll take 15, dammit!" In the end it took an hour to repair the damage!

Once things got rolling, everything that could go wrong did. The most problems were in FX - they were shooting the wormhole effect for three weeks and two days. The FX guy had sold himself well to the studio but didn't really know what he was doing. In the end Bob Wise blew his top; the FX man was banished. However he was reinstated, having managed to convince the studio that more money would solve the problem.

Nichelle liked the uniforms in TMP as they were originally designed; they were well cut, and had more colour - blue, beige, grey, with a white panel. But Bob thought they looked too interesting and had them made paler. Everyone was told to cut their nails, and no jewellery was permitted. Nichelle didn't agree with this; she saw Uhura's earrings as a trademark, so she took the matter up with the studio, then with Gene who supported her. She kept the earrings - and her long nails.

When Nichelle was asked about her relationship with Scotty in TFF, she replied jokily, "It's none of your business", then

elaborated that she and James Doohan had been surprised when they saw the script; they had great fun playing the scene but had expected it to be cut out!

She was also asked to comment on the Klingon dictionary scene in ST6.

Before they started filming, she was sent some tapes of the Klingon language and she worked on them; after all, Uhura is supposed to be a linguist. So when she came in for shooting she had some Klingon. When it came to the scene, the books appeared on set and everyone wanted to know why they were on the Enterprise when everything is supposed to be on microfilm. Nicholas Meyer said that the Enterprise had collected the books to transport them to some library - that was his rationale. The scene was actually great fun to do.

Who are her favourite cast members? She named everyone. She has known Majel Barrett for a long time - they auditioned for the Singing Nun together. Was being typecast a problem? She wouldn't have it any other way.

There were lots of other anecdotes during Nichelle's talks. One for Leonard Nimoy fans, then I will stop.

Someone asked whether filming was ever held up because Spock laughed. "Never. Leonard Nimoy laughs, Spock doesn't."

The cast liked to play tricks on Leonard. Once his son was visiting the set, so they made him up and sent him onto the bridge set with a clipboard to be signed. Spock was in the Captain's chair. His son crossed to him, held out the clipboard and said, "I love you, daddy!" Leonard didn't turn a hair; he stayed in character, said, "That's fine, son," signed the clipboard and handed it back.

When Leonard Nimoy was 'God' (ie directing) they tried to drive him crazy. In the street scene in ST 4, they persisted in over-acting and clowning around...

Nichelle finished both of her talks by

singing; on the second day she sang 'Beyond Antares' - to prove that she could remember the words.

Nichelle Nichols created the character of Uhura - defined her, named her 'freedom'. I have long admired Nichelle's work for the

cause of the rights of the individual (I can't say HUMAN rights since ST 6), a path which the character of Uhura started her on, so I was really pleased to see her in person, and it was a pleasure to do this report.

PS - Contagion was a great con!

☆☆☆☆

JONATHAN DEL ARCO AT CONTAGION, GLASGOW

Talk #1 reported by Mark Maclean

Intro. Getting an audition for a part in Star Trek is actually quite easy, getting the job is hard. I got the script for my audition the night before, it was almost like a spiritual experience, creating my own image of what a Borg looks like, since I had never ever seen one. The script was brilliant, one of the best I'd ever had. After the audition, I knew that I had the job even before they told me - from there I went and got measured for my costume, then I had a head cast done for my Borg eye piece. I had a panic attack when I heard I had to have a head cast done, since I am very claustrophobic, but it wasn't that bad since it was only on part of my face.

Questions And Answers with Jonathan

Q. What was your first experience of Star Trek?

A. Actually my first 'Trek' experience, was when I went to an audition in New York for the part of Wesley Crusher. I never got the job - and to me at that time it was 'just' a job, I never really watched Star Trek.

Q. Do you know any Borg jokes?

A. Oh no, I've heard hundreds, but I've forgotten them all!

Attendee: How many Borg does it take to change a light bulb? Light Bulbs are irrelevant, you will be assimilated!

Q. Did you have to learn to do 'Robotic Mime' for your part as a Borg?

A. No. As it is you can't really move much in the Borg costume, you are hired for what you can do.

Q. What happens to the Borg in "Descent"?

A. There are lots of changes and they are still evil, but I'm not telling! - I'm pleased with my character; Hugh's development, what they've done with the Borg is absolutely brilliant and it pretty much marks the beginning of a never-ending story.

Q. How much influence did you have in your character's development?

A. A great deal of influence. You are hired for what you are, you work with the people like the director, developing your character. Descent part 2 raised many questions for me.

Q. What about working with the regular cast?

A. They are all really nice. I first met Patrick Stewart when he rolled up to me in his Jag, parked, got out, shook my hand and said "Better you than me in that Borg suite!" Then he went on complaining about being Locutus etc. When I did "I, Borg" I met all the cast, except Marina, Whoopi took me round, introducing me to everyone. She is really nice.

Q. Did you have any embarrassing moments on the set?

A. Yes! - going to the toilet with someone - it can be very messy. Last time round there were more Borg, so the costume/make-up people were more practised at getting people in and out of Borg costume. At about 10.15 I usually go for lunch; before there was usually someone assigned to help me get out of costume, except this time everyone disappeared leaving me to make my way across the lot to the cafeteria with my Borg head piece on. Can you imagine how embarrassing that was in the cafeteria with

lots of regular people and me with a white face and my Borg head piece on! Well I have to eat to you know.

Q. How does appearing on Star Trek effect your job prospects as an actor?

A. Hollywood does not really understand the power of sci fi, and therefore appearing on Star Trek has not really led to many jobs for me; one can only keep hoping.

Q. How would you like your character to develop?

A. I would just like him to keep going as he is, to become a good warrior, to know right from wrong and to become a leader of sorts. Just to keep growing up.

Q. What age are you?

A. I am 27, but if they ask me in the States I'm 21!!

Q. Has travelling abroad changed your outlooks on life?

A. Has it ever, it has been a very enlightening experience. In some places I found myself being constantly reminded of things that we take for granted - toilets, food and small comforts. History is going on all around us, it's just a pity that we can't live in a more idealistic world like we can identify with on Star Trek.

Q. Are you surprised at the impact Hugh had as a one off character?

A. I am shocked, and pleased. 3 days before I started filming, a friend of mine, Alexia said to me that I was going to be "IT", travel around to conventions and talk about it. Well here I am!

Q. Is the Laser eye awkward?

A. Not really, it can come off. Its just that I'm blind and a bit deaf when its on. The first day of filming was difficult for me because I couldn't tell how loud I was talking!

Q. How would you have played Wesley, if you had got the part?

A. I would have loved to have been Wesley, and he would have been a lot different if I'd played him. But I also love playing Hugh, my character.

Q. What is your personal vision of the future?

A. Honestly I don't think that things are looking better for the human race, in fact they are looking worse than ever - when I was filming "I, Borg" the LA riots started; not exactly on track for a brighter future. In Star Trek, the Federation has its problems too, but in my mind I think that our problem is that the human race as a whole is just far too petty.

Q. What kind of acting do you like?

A. I like making European films, intimate films, personal films. Aside from making Star Trek, TV does not appeal to me at all, I want to make films.

Q. Do you think that the Borg are white washed in Descent as being nice?

A. No. The Borg are still not nice, they will always be enemies. However since the Borg have split, they have become far more evil as individuals. But I think that from the Borg's own point of view, they are not evil - they are what they are.

Q. How long does it take to put on the Borg make-up?

A. It originally took 4 hours, but now they have speeded up to about 1 hour 20 minutes.

Q. How many Cons have you done?

A. Since March this will be my 11th, and I'm booked up right on into next year.

Q. Have you always been an actor?

A. Actor? I've worked all over - Departments stores, health clinics, restaurants. But the last couple of years I have been acting. I started on Broadway and I moved on to Miami Vice, True Colours, Sisters and some other soaps.

Q. Have you ever made any mistakes on the set?

A. Not really, however I wish they still made the bloopers reels 'cause I could have made plenty. Off camera Patrick is very funny, he is always having a laugh. When Patrick had his Locutus gear on, the laser eye was operated by someone behind the scenes, so when Patrick was sitting relaxing, someone would always switch on the laser eye - catching him 'off guard' and he would shout

"Who did that?"

Q. Will Hugh have an important role in Descent?

A. Yes, I think that you could say that to deal with the Borg they have to go through Hugh first.

Q. Do you think that the Borg could show up at DS9?

A. Yes, I think that that is possible since Sisko has those nightmares of the Wolf359 massacre when the Borg are responsible for his wife's death.

Q. If you had met Gene, what do you think you would have said to him?

A. I would have been speechless. On the lot at Paramount, when they heard that Gene died over the radio, the cast and crew from the set were very sombre. He was a great man; how did he get all these great ideas?

Q. Where do you want your career to go from here?

A. I want to study Shakespeare, keep acting for another 20 years and come out of it like Patrick - BALD.

Q. If you could meet anyone on the holodeck who would it be?

A. I would love to meet Jesus on the

holodeck. Also I would like to meet Einstein and Cleopatra.

Q. Who are your favourite characters from TNG?

A. I think that Captain Picard is my favourite, but I also like Guinan because she is so mysterious.

Q. Would you like to appear in a Star Trek Film?

A. Yes, and I will find out in a week or two if I will be appearing in the next film.

Q. Does knowing how all the special effects are done spoil them?

A. No, I actually think they are even more amazing once you know how they are done.

Q. Did you get on well with the regulars?

A. Yes - they 'Goof off' a lot, and they absolutely love imitating Dr Beverly Crusher. Actually I think that they have to joke around to stop themselves going crazy.

Q. Do you have any personal fears?

A. Yes, I hate standing in front of an audience, because you never know how they are going to react, but I think that the best way to face your own fears is to walk right through them, confront mistakes and things like that.

☆☆☆☆☆

FOR THE WORLD IS HOLO BUT I NEVER SAW THE SKY ALL WEEKEND

by Sue Jones

"Are you coming to "Holodeck", because I need you to help with the Desk." Jackie informed me over the phone some time in May.

"I haven't actually registered yet," I confessed meekly; a request from Jackie is a thing not lightly to be ignored. A pregnant pause followed, as eloquent in its way as the entire works of William Shakespeare... I registered. And I promise that it was mere coincidence that I later obtained a badge for Jackie which reads "You don't have to be

Bajoran to be Bossy!"

Actually I am typing gross slander (or should that be libel?) because veterans of my previous con reports will realise that inviting me to do Registrations was just the right bait to use to tempt me into going and is akin to throwing Brer Rabbit into the briar patch.

In view of this, I drove down to Telford on Thursday and arrived at the hotel to find that, by breaking the Eleventh Commandment and volunteering, I had

unwittingly become a fully paid-up member of what Nic Farey so delicately referred to as the "Blue A---d Fly Brigade" i.e. one of those poor deluded mortals whose idea of a good con is to run around like things gone demented helping to solve problems.

So there we were, Sadie, Jackie and I, seated at the Reg desk on Friday morning, pens poised and cash box agape, dishing out con packages and separating people from their money, when we noticed a cloud of smoke hanging ominously over the car park.

Since it appeared to originate from a point very close to where Jackie and I had parked our cars I went to investigate and discovered two people standing very forlornly and rather too close for safety to their red Ford Escort, with colour co-ordinated flames leaping from under its bonnet. Apparently they had only just parked it when it burst into flames - EEK!

The fire brigade arrived with commendable speed and once the fire had been extinguished, they were able to salvage their possessions. I rather lost touch with them after that, but I hope that they managed to get home safely.

If any good can be said to come out of an upset like that, I suppose it must be that we seemed to have got a Trek con's almost obligatory Close Encounter of the Fire Brigade Kind out of the way good and early, and we had an otherwise peaceful and alarm-free weekend.

The rest of Friday passed in a blur of comings and goings and saying helloings coupled with a quick sortie round the Salesroom - So much merchandise, so little time (well, more accurately, money!) until the Opening Ceremony, followed immediately after by a talk by the Official Star Trek Club of Great Britain.

Much time, energy and hot air has gone into the discussion of the pros and cons of this club, so I will not attempt to enlarge upon it here. Suffice to say, following their performance at Contagion, the room had the jocular atmosphere of a lynch party on an

Away-day! However, either there was something of a misunderstanding in the first place, or they've learned an awful lot in the last two months. Whichever may be the case, I may be particularly naive, but in the end they convinced me that there is in all probability room for both parties so to speak - but heaven help them if they try to rock the boat!

Holodeck is a great con for people who love to participate in things, so as a little light relief from the above, I went to the panel discussion "Get a Life", so called because of a certain well-known actor's well publicised sketch about the "sad" fans who have no life outside of their idolatry of a television programme. It was great fun, and finally reached the conclusion that "sad" will probably always be used to define the person who is about ten degrees more obsessive than oneself! The great thing about British fans is that we can laugh at ourselves, and I certainly overheard several discussions on a potential mock con to be called Sad Con, for all those "sad" fans who must exist somewhere!

I tried the Welcome Party, but the number of decibels seemed to be inversely proportional to the number of attendees. There were one or two people cowering outside in the corridor with their hands metaphorically over their ears and a few more pinned against the walls on the inside of the hall, but not that many actually up and dancing, so I retired to my bed.

Saturday started with a steady stampede of business at Registrations following the photo and brief mention in the local rag. I extricated myself in order to participate in the panel Cliches and Archetypes for which I had been "volunteered". (I know I have a big mouth, but how did the Committee know? - No don't answer that, I think I'd rather labour in ignorance!) I was privileged to share the panel with Geoff Ryman and Freda Warrington (authors of Was and the Blackbird series of books respectively). I don't know whether the audience enjoyed themselves as much as we did, but Geoff and I ended up continuing the discussion

afterwards, standing (since he is 6'7" and I am close on 6') either side of the corridor like Doric columns, while the rest of the world went past in between us down below!

I managed to catch most of Janet, Sheila and Valerie's talk which had followed the panel and was great fun, then went and did another stint on Registrations before escaping to go to Bob Justman's talk.

Bob Justman, as I'm sure you all know, was the producer of the Original Trek series. He is a fascinating man with a mind like a rapier, a taste for word games and limericks and a sense of humour so dry that it makes the Sahara desert look like the Grimpfen Mire! Rather unusually, he read his talk, instead of simply addressing the audience from notes, but I can see why. He is a wordsmith at heart. Each word that he used had obviously been carefully chosen and no other would do. I found him hugely entertaining, but I can imagine that an hour in his company would cause one to feel that one's brain cells had received a quick rub down with a wet lettuce!

I did go to Dr Julian Headlong's talk on Vulcan biology which, whilst it had some of the medically trained folk in attendance in screaming hysterics, went largely over my head. I could follow his biological terminology - just, but as to how far from reality it had been stretched was beyond me to tell.

At that point I received an invite from Brenda and Jo (Kelsey and Osborne respectively) to go out for dinner, so we went and attacked Pizza Hut. In case anyone didn't realise, Pizza Hut are holding a Star Trek promotion, with free Trek cups for kiddies. (Adults have to buy them - sulk!) Between us we ordered 13 cups! Our oh-so-kind and long suffering waitress came staggering back with her burden, decanted it onto the table and enquired tentatively "Did you actually want any food?!"

We had a wonderful meal, but in the process contrived to totally miss the Fancy Dress Masquerade, so any report of this will have to come from other pens than mine.

Since we got back quite late, Brenda and Jo retired, but being a nightbird I went in search of company, which is how I bumped into Stephen Hepworth and got regaled with "The Bibble Song". I reproduce it with the kind permission of the author.

THE BIBBLE SONG OR THE SECURITY TEAM'S LAMENT

(Sung to the tune of I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles")

We're forever going bibble,
Eyes aglaze with vacant stare,
High as a kite,
Been up all night,
Hope we make it to Monday alright
The Committee's all exhausted,
We don't know we're here,
So we're forever going bibble,
With this red badge what we wear!

What oft was thought but ne'er so well expressed, is all I can find to say to that.

Sunday had dawned damply, I discovered, when I looked out of my bedroom window so it was with great pleasure that I betook myself to other things, frinstance the Scotpress clan's workshop on zine editing. Well done ladies, you managed to provide a great deal of useful information and raise a smile at the same time.

Bob Justman's second talk was in the afternoon and included a reading of some of the memos with which he bombarded various hapless souls around the studio. They must have caused quite a few chuckles, but where he found the time to write them in such a busy day I will never know.

I was lucky enough to have the chance to chat to his wife Jackie in a quiet moment and was delighted to discover that if we had enjoyed Mr Justman, he had also enjoyed us. Apparently British fans seem to share his sense of humour and so he told us, confirmed his long-held belief that there is intelligent life out there.

Sigh, I must be getting old, because I skipped the Holodeck Rock and Pop Awards

Party in favour of a further expedition to Pizza Hut with Brenda and Jo. We were not alone. When we arrived, four Klingons, in full Imperial splendour were already contemplating the salad counter (Vegetarian Klingons? - hmn) The expressions on the faces of the Mundanes out for a quiet Sunday evening meal had to be seen to be believed. Were they, or were they not, part of the Star Trek promotion was clearly the question.

And then it was Monday. Geoff Ryman joined Brenda, Jo and me at the breakfast table, which meant that a breakfast begun at 8.40am lasted till 10.50am when the staff politely indicated that they would like their restaurant back, in order to start serving lunch!

There was a panel (Have you guessed by now that I'm a panel freak) for all the guests "How long, O Lord, How long" at

which they debated the question of how long Paramount can hope to keep making Star Trek series of one kind or another and thankfully came to the conclusion that the answer must be - almost indefinitely. I don't know about you, but I for one could stand another twenty years of fandom with no trouble at all. Now there's a thought - does that make me "sad"?

I'm sure it was only moments before that I was attending the Opening Ceremony, yet here we all were listening to the announcements of the prizes and saying goodbye.

I bumped into Stephen again outside the Main Hall and we said our farewells and as I trailed off sadly down the corridor, strains of the "Bibble Song" drifted behind me. Holodeck 1993 was over. See you at the next one, folks!

☆☆☆☆

ROBERT JUSTMAN AT HOLODECK

Reported by Jean Sloan

Robert Justman worked as Assistant Director on the first ST pilot, as Associate Producer of the second pilot and of the first two seasons of the show. He co-produced the third season. After the 'demise' of Star Trek he worked with Gene Roddenberry and Herb Solow on other projects. In 1986 he teamed up with Gene Roddenberry again to produce and help create the pilot and first season of Next Gen. At the end of the first season he retired from active production.

"Friends, Romulans, Vulcans - lend me your ears..."

"One score and seven years ago Gene Roddenberry brought forth upon this planet a new television show dedicated to the proposition that all sentient life forms are created equal..."

Robert Justman made a speech, or rather two speeches, which were witty, informative and entertaining. What came across very strongly was his love for Star

Trek, his love and admiration for its creator, his abundant energy, his sense of humour, his delight in words, and the fact that he is a very nice man. He dealt with the beginnings of Trek, with his relationship with Gene Roddenberry and with his penchant for writing memos. In the next pages I will try to give a taste of what it was like to hear him speak.

Bob Justman defined the show as "a daring Enterprise", "a piece of thinking so intelligent that the network nabobs had no inkling of what a Pandora's Box they had opened to the ultimate benefit of thinking, feeling people everywhere." In 1987 he was addressing a convention in California. Next Gen was in pre-production, and there was unrest among some fans about whether the new show would be true to the spirit of Trek. He made it his responsibility to reassure those fans that Next Gen would be "just like the old show because it was still about what matters most to the human race - morality, tolerance, doing unto others..."

His relationship with Gene Roddenberry

They were good friends; Bob Justman liked to "entertain" Gene by trying to drive him crazy. He described a particular attempt to wind Gene up.

Gene was re-writing a script to the usual impossible deadline. Bob climbed on Gene's desk and said, "Faster, Gene, faster," and Gene wrote faster. After that, whenever Gene was doing re-writes, Bob would repeat the performance. For a while Gene tried ignoring him, but finally he had his office door equipped with a security latch, the secret release button hidden in Gene's outer office, its location known only to Gene's secretary.

Eventually, after much frustration, Bob found the button. The next time Gene was writing Bob pressed the button, walked into Gene's office and walked slowly past Gene, pretending not to see him, exiting by the door at the other end of the room. Gene for his part kept his head down and pretended not to have seen Bob. Neither acknowledged the other, and the incident was never referred to, but it taught Bob Justman that Gene had a sense of humour.

That sense of humour was often in evidence. On another occasion while they were filming *What Are Little Girls Made Of?* Ted Cassidy (Ruk) came to Gene's office to have his make-up and wardrobe approved. The discussion centred on whether Ruk looked frightening enough, or perhaps too frightening. Gene decided to put Ruk to the test.

There was a suit salesman in Gene's outer office. Gene made Ted Cassidy sit behind Gene's desk and pretend to be him. Then the salesman was ushered in and introduced to the new Gene Roddenberry. Ted Cassidy, seven feet tall and satanic in make-up, rose to greet the salesman. To everyone's surprise, the salesman sat down and proceeded to give his sales pitch, agreeing that extra large suits would be no problem though they might cost more.

The jokers decided that Ted's make-up

was just right; the salesman had been visibly shaken but had not run away. Gene placed an order for three suits.

The first season of ST was such hard work that both Gene and Bob were exhausted. One night Bob 'came unglued' (his phrase) at home, so his wife phoned Gene and told him that she was taking her husband to Hawaii for a rest, and that Gene should 'butt out' if he knew what was good for him. Gene did - sort of. When Bob got on the plane it was to find a bottle of champagne from Gene, but also an occupant in the seat between himself and his wife - the creature Balok from *Corbomite Maneuver*. The pilot refused to take off with Balok on the plane.

Once in Hawaii, Bob began to unwind. Before he left (on Friday) he had tried to resolve a problem between Gene and a studio executive called Bill Heath over the late delivery of opticals for the show. Gene did not get on at all with Heath because Gene liked quality and hated sloppiness in work. Before he left, Bob extracted a promise from Gene that he wouldn't do anything about the problem while Bob was away.

The day after he arrived in Hawaii, Bob received a cable from Gene: "Do not accept Bill Heath's phone call. We can work it out here." Shortly after, there was another: "Disregard last message. Perhaps you had better talk to Heath."

Bob phoned LA but no-one was in. Next day another cable arrived. "Urgent. What did you and Heath decide?"

Bob phoned the studio but everyone had gone home. Gene was not at home.

On the Friday when Bob had left LA, The Galileo Seven was being wrapped, on schedule and under budget. The next Tuesday, a cable read, "Relax. All going well. Will finish Galileo Seven Wednesday."

Again Bob phoned the studio but no-one was in. Then another cable arrived. "No problem. Sylvia claims Steve Carabatsos is the father," followed by "Still no problem. Perlstein agrees to defend you."

Bob realised at last that he was being set up.

Memos

Bob Justman became known on the ST set as a writer of memos. One of his more famous ones is when he wrote to the cast and crew telling them if they did not do their best, the 'Great Bird of the Galaxy' would deposit 'cosmic doo-doo' upon them. So it was Bob Justman who gave Gene his now-famous nickname.

By the time that Justman, memo writer, came to work on Next Gen, he had honed his memo writing skills; he wrote a memo to everyone working on the show:

"Things are going so well that I have decided not to write any memos today."

Another lengthy memo to Gene discussed Hannah Shearer's script *Coming of Ages*. It referred to John Pike, the President of Paramount's Network TV Department, and it was full of fish puns.

Bob Justman writes letters as well as memos; he engaged in many witty correspondences with fans. Examples yield such disparate information as:

- Geordi's visor is kept in place by thin black elastic cord looped around his head and hidden by his hair.

- Dr Crusher's hair became an epic problem during the first season.

- Bob Justman collects Chinese fortune cookie fortunes.

- Bob Justman's motto could be 'Word processors is us'.

- There is no freedom after school and the older you get, the more complicated life becomes, but you should try to do whatever you secretly aspire to (even if it causes you to end a sentence with a preposition).

Then Bob Justman retired from active production, rumours immediately started to

the effect that he had been booted out. He countered these, as always, with a memo, in which he praised everyone working on the show.

Question time

Why did Bob go into the movies?

It seemed like a good way to spend time. It satisfied emotional and creative needs, allowed him to 'leave some footprints in the sands of time; it's a dirty job - someone has to do it. It pays well.'

How many memo pads did he use up?

Didn't use them. Used a dictophone and his secretary typed memos up. Then when PCs arrived, he typed them himself.

Whose idea was it to have Picard drink hot Earl Gray tea?

Bob had no idea. He elaborated on with the story of how he found his Next Gen Captain.

He was on a course at UCLA when he heard Patrick Stewart doing reading. Bob found Patrick's agent and arranged a meeting at Gene's house. Gene didn't want Patrick at first; he envisaged a Frenchman in the role. But a search found no suitable French actor so Patrick was hired.

Patrick had to be presented to the Head of Studio, the earlier-punned Pike. Gene was nervous, wondering how the Studio would react to a balding English actor, but when Patrick read, he awed the executives.

How was Brent Spiner cast?

He and Eric Menyuk read; Brent was made Data, but they were so taken with Eric that they gave him the part of the Traveller. They used to think of Data as Pinocchio - a total innocent, responding to the wonder of the world.

Wil Wheaton's character started out as a boy teenager, then became a girl teenager because every show had a male. At the last

minute Gene changed the character back.

Worf started off as a minor character. Gene didn't want Klingons. He said, "That's over" and didn't want to trade on the past. Then Worf's new position captured Gene's interest. Michael Dorn's qualities as an actor made it possible to increase the size of the role. There had been problems casting the part in the first place - Michael was chosen because he had such presence, and because of his classical training.

When first considering Next Gen, did Gene have any well-known actors in mind?

No. Gene felt that the show was the star; the actors wouldn't make the show, the show would make the actors. LeVar was the best known face in America. Gene selected the characters' names: Picard was a high altitude balloonist in the 30s or 40s; Tasha was the result of Aliens - Gene wanted a tough girl security chief - a Mexican - Macha

Fernandez, but the name didn't suit Denise Crosby and it became Tasha.

De Kelley was well known! Gene wrote DeForest's scene for Encounter at Farpoint in secret and De did the scene for basic pay. It was an exciting day when De came on the set.

Did Bob write memos when he was angry?

In reply to the last question, Bob said that he didn't get angry but he was irritated by people who see things as just a job. However he emphasised that that rarely happened on ST; everyone working on the show was like a family.

Because of the examples of memos and letters which Bob Justman included in his talks, he was very difficult to take notes from. I must thank John Bathgate who helped get the details right.

☆☆☆☆

STARLIGHT UNION CONVENTION

August 20th - 22nd, Hannover, Germany

reported by Martin Stahl

Boldly we went where we never have gone before and promptly we were lost in Hannover. Fortunately we then found the Intercontinental Hotel, and I met some friends at once. It was the first time in my life I slept in a first class hotel and I was unaccustomed to being served. And until today I never understood why the lift always brought me to the 1st floor when I wanted my room on the 5th.

The opening ceremony began with a nice short film about Hannover and a video clip of the song Forever in Star Trek. I didn't sleep at all that night, and therefore I was one of the first at breakfast on Saturday morning.

Richard Arnold presented slides from the 6th and 7th seasons of TNG and answered our questions. The art room had a special item - Lwaxana Troi's original

costume from Haven. In the dealers' room there were several professional and fan dealers from Germany, England and the USA. At 12 o'clock there was a special attraction in this room: Majel Barrett appeared at the Lincoln Enterprises' table for the first autograph session. She was very nice and friendly and signed everything we gave her.

In the afternoon it was her appearance on stage. At first she read a speech about Gene Roddenberry and Star Trek and then answered our questions. We learned a lot about Gene's plans and how Majel got the role of Chapel. After that she presented a private video, a tribute to Gene Roddenberry with slides from his life. Richard showed some other videos about Gene and his life - this was a very moving moment for all of us.

It was time to prepare for the fancy dress competition, and my costume was not self made but self cooked; Odo in his natural shape (orange ambrosia). Helen White inspired me some time ago to this gag when I read her Warp One report with 'Odo on holiday'. Antonia, the organiser of the competition, appeared as Lwaxana in the dress from Half a Life, and when I entered the stage I offered her a spoon in order to enjoy Odo. When Majel saw Odo she split her sides laughing, and I received a special prize for the most original 'costume'. The first prizes for 'normal' costume went to Marion Pritchard as a black fantasy knight (I hope that's right, Marion!). Later we ate Odo (and Majel tasted him too). He was really delicious.

I talked with friends until midnight and then fell into bed. That night I slept really well!

Sunday began with the auction. The charity auction (autographs from the actors) raised DM 3000. We went for lunch and came back just in time for Richard's second talk, this time with slides from DS9. The first three episodes of season 2 form a trilogy.

Incidentally, Billy Idol also appeared in the hotel (I must admit I didn't know him and had never heard of him!) and he was interested in the convention. Several fans got autographs, and Richard asked for an autograph for Marina Sirtis as she is a great

Billy Idol fan.

Then Majel appeared again and told many anecdotes. Gene had many projects but he threw them away. Majel took some out of the waste paper basket and now plans to reactivate some of them. When her guest talk was over, we gave her a standing ovation and she was very moved. I think Majel is, like James Doohan, the ideal guest star for a convention.

Unfortunately it was already time for the closing ceremony - I couldn't believe that the convention was already over. Majel had a last autograph session, and as there was nobody standing at her desk later I used the opportunity to say goodbye to her. (Probably I will see her again next year in Mannheim). It took me almost an hour to say goodbye to all my friends.

It was time for us to leave. We had a very long way to go home. Boldly we went where we, two days ago, had gone before, and once again we were lost, but we finally found our way to the highway.

Starlight Union was a wonderful convention with a very warm and friendly atmosphere. About 200 fans attended and we spent a wonderful weekend.

I only regret that I never solved the mystery of the lift!

☆☆☆☆

KLINGON DAY AT THE P.D.S.A.

(or the day the Klingons and a Vulcan came for tea)

by

Gloria Fry

The official Grand Re-opening after a refit was a day that the staff and customers of the PDSA (Peoples Dispensary for Sick Animals) charity shop, Shawlands, Glasgow will not forget. Seven Klingons - five males and two females - and one Vulcan lady visited the shop, standing outside in the drizzle for most of the afternoon, obligingly having their pictures taken with the bemused

customers whom I persuaded to pay 50p for the privilege. We also played non-stop Star Trek music.

To augment the staff, four Trek friends and my daughter Gillian also helped, and a rather bemused photographer friend of another volunteer took plenty of photos of delighted adults and children with the

Klingons, while startled bystanders, drivers, bus passengers, etc. looked on. Also, photographers from two newspapers covered the event.

This unusual happening materialised after a conversation between Pat the manager and myself, during early July about getting a personality to open the shop. None of us knew anyone famous, but lightning struck - as they say - as I realised that Contagion was on the following weekend, and there were bound to be Klingons there. Pat was at first shocked, then delighted. She is not quite a Trekker, but knows the series pretty well.

At Contagion, I asked Robert Kirkwood if KAG would be willing to participate. He readily agreed, and it was an even more shocked manager who heard that Klingons would come to her shop. The date was arranged, and it was then that I thought it might be wise to enlist some temporary helpers from my Trek friends, because I knew that the ordinary shop staff would be totally lost. My grateful thanks must go to Kath, Alan, Lorraine, and Alison who gave up their Saturday afternoon to shake PDSA cans which, incidentally, by the end of the afternoon were full. A special mention must go to Linda who on hearing about the Klingons, volunteered to dress up in movie uniform and pointed ears. She cheerfully did her stint during the photo sessions, especially helpful when some nervous customers preferred her and the Klingon ladies to the men!

When I first booked the guests, I did not realise just how zany the afternoon would be. The shop was too small for them to get changed and made up in, so I offered my house (which is just around the corner) as a changing area and rec. room. I hadn't bargained for the 21 people who eventually ended up there - Klingons, Vulcan, family, friends, Pat and her dog, Jack. The walk to the shop was like something out of the Pied Piper. I don't know what the neighbours must have thought! Oh well, as they say, it was all in a good cause...

The opening speech yelled by a rather large, mean looking Klingon (sorry Andy) went like this -

"nuqneH. In the name of the Empire, I, Commander ToQuDuJ tai JoNWl, declare this shop officially open. Qapla"

He then dragged the blue ribbon attached across the doorway off with his dagger.

August 14th, 1993 was Klingon Day at the PDSA, but after it was all over, fourteen people stayed at my house to watch 'The Search for Spock' on TV. Needless to say, a certain seven cheered the nasty Kruge, rather than the heroic Captain Kirk. They were out of make-up and gear but what else can be expected of members of the Klingon Assault Group!

As I told the old ladies who shied away from having their photo taken with these fierce-looking guys, "They're really nice boys."

My thanks to KAG for giving their time and support, and for getting into the spirit of the occasion. It is greatly appreciated by 'them upstairs' and perhaps shows that Trekkers, no matter how 'mean' they appear (and boy, did some of them look mean!) are warm hearted, generous people. Robert, Andy, Grace, Fiona, Kevin, John, Alistair, you looked rough, and tough, and generated lots of amusement, and not a little trepidation amongst customers, staff, the people of Shawlands etc., but all us Trekkers know that deep down, you're a bunch of pussycats... Don't worry your secret is safe with us!

* The PDSA is a charity which provides free veterinary service for animals belonging to those unable to afford the normal fees, e.g. the elderly, sick, or unemployed. It has been established for 75 years and relies totally on public support via its retail shops, appeals, and legacies etc.

BJO TRIMBLE

by Valerie Piacentini

Bjo has been a science fiction fan for many years, along with her husband John and daughters Katwen and Lora. She wrote and illustrated for fanzines, designed and wore fantasy costumes - winning awards for them - and attended science fiction conventions. She has well-established contacts with the film world, her mother having been a Hollywood costumer, and she herself has worked professionally in costume, wardrobe and makeup.

At the World Science Fiction Convention in 1966 she was responsible for the Futuristic Fashion Show, and was rather startled to be suddenly presented with three costumes from a new SF show which was about to be broadcast. The producer of the show demonstrated the costumes to her, and managed to introduce some information about the new show. The producer was Gene Roddenberry, the show, *Star Trek*.

From seeing the first episodes at that convention, Bjo became a fan. In fact, she became the best-known name in fandom across the world, the list of her achievements almost unbelievable.

In 1967 she orchestrated the letter campaign that reversed *Star Trek's* cancellation. In fact, she has a great deal to do with the fact that I'm writing this article today, and that over 1200 of you are reading it. NBC admitted to receiving 200,000 letters, but several independent sources put the results at over one million.

The *Star Trek Concordance*, compiled by Bjo, originally an amateur production, achieved professional publication, and is still the standard source on the original series for fans. She is working on an updated version.

Another letter writing success for Bjo came in 1976 when she co-ordinated the letter campaign to President Ford asking that the first Space Shuttle be renamed *Enterprise*.

She estimates that her original mailing was to 12,000 fans; the response was over half a million letters to the President who - perhaps wisely - bowed to public pressure. On the eve of the roll-out Bjo and John were invited to a cocktail party held by NASA and Rockwell International; she found over two dozen Rockwell employees wearing discreetly hidden 'Closet Trekkie' badges. Unfortunately John had to work and missed the actual roll-out, but Bjo was present on a press pass. Exciting enough simply to be there, but what a sense of achievement she must have had on seeing the name '*Enterprise*'.

In 1978, Bjo was involved in contacting the fans who appeared in the crew briefing scene of *ST-TMP*; she herself appeared in the scene, along with Susan Sackett, David Gerrold and Richard Arnold.

Bjo is legendary in fandom for her kindness and enthusiasm, as witness her generous offer of a copy of her newsletter to anyone who donated £1.00 to the IDIC guide dog fund.

Janet, Sheila and I had the great pleasure of meeting Bjo some years ago at Galileo Con, where we took part in a Family Fortunes quiz. She is a warm, friendly, approachable person, who is the source of an endless supply of stories about the early days of fandom. Do yourselves a favour, and get hold of her book, '*On the Good Ship Enterprise*' - I promise you won't stop chuckling.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Bjo for her contributions to fandom over the years, and to tell her how much we value her input to IDIC. A belated 'Happy Birthday', Bjo. We hope to see you again some day soon, but in the meantime, we hope that this gives you some small idea of just how much you are valued and appreciated.

Marshak and Culbreath - Psychological H/C?

by Neil J Barrett

In IDIC 25 I asked for opinions on Sondra Marshak and Myrna Culbreath and their treatment of Kirk. Having now had a few responses I suppose I'd better put forward my ideas.

M and C have been around the Trek writing scene for a long time starting with fanzines in the early seventies, co-writing the seminal 'Star Trek Lives', editing 'Star Trek : The New Voyages' (two anthologies of fan fiction), writing and producing a number of Trek 'specials' for American television and collaborating on a number of novels - only some of which actually made it to publication. Sadly, experience does not necessarily imply quality.

I've read both fiction and non-fiction from this team and I find I much prefer the latter. In both cases, they seem to be very deeply into psychological analysis of the characters (Culbreath is a psychologist by profession). This is interesting when you read as non-fiction as in 'Star Trek Lives!' or 'Shatner: Where No Man ...' but may be harder to take in a novel. If the reader is interested in this field then they may well enjoy it as Gratiene Vandekerhove does, but for others, like Helen White, the end result can become unbearably tedious.

Jean Sloan mentions 'The New Voyages' as being h/c. Yes and no. They are all fan fiction but the range of styles is quite wide. Certainly 'Mind-Sifter' by Shirley S Maewski is classic h/c (as Nina Lynch has pointed out) and you can probably add 'Snake Pit!' by Connie Faddis and 'In the Maze' by Jennifer Guttridge to that group but 'Intersection Point' by Juanita Coulson, 'Visit to a Weird Planet Revisited' by Ruth Berman and 'The Patient Parasites' by Russell Bates are certainly not h/c. M and C's own contribution will be discussed later.

Sheila Clark thinks the problem is that M and C need more editing. I would agree that they do tend to introduce things from

nowhere rather than build them and a lot of ideas are somewhat contrived. To me the biggest problem with their fiction is the repetitive themes and heavy-handed introspection; I seldom find anything original in their work.

Why do I describe M and C as 'psychological hurt/comfort'? In most of their work they seem determined to put down the character of Kirk by pitting him against an adversary which is overwhelmingly superior and/or providing enough humiliation to give anyone a major identity problem. They explore the innermost depths of his psyche, play down his obvious masculinity and generally put him through the wringer. Why? It doesn't appear that they intend to show him triumphant after struggle. In 'Star Trek Lives!' and 'Shatner : Where No Man...' they emphasise the masculinity of Kirk as a key trait of the character, a distinctly male man who is not afraid to show emotion; yet in their fiction they seem bent on testing this very trait to the limit.

In 'The Procrustean Petard' (New Voyages 2) the entire crew is subjected to a sex change with the exception of the 'alpha male'. Kirk has been through this before in 'Turnabout Intruder' but he now has to contend with the added insult that the alien device chose Spock as the most masculine of the bunch. Add in a Klingon crew with the same problem and we get the classic M and C dilemma.

In 'The Price of the Phoenix' and 'The Fate of the Phoenix' Kirk is pitted against Omne, an amnesiac, megalomaniac immortal. He is forced to kowtow in order to prevent the destruction of the Galaxy but repeatedly and stubbornly fights back. Spock, in comparison, manages to hold his own with some measure of serenity.

In 'The Prometheus Design', Kirk is used as an experimental animal by superior

aliens, loses his command to Spock in full Vulcan mode and is repeatedly put down by Admiral Savaj. It is only the stubbornness and individuality of the Human species, personified by Kirk, which saves the day.

In 'Triangle' the superior adversaries are gestalt minds where the individual is submerged in a totalitarian mass which threatens to steamroller all those in its path, including Kirk. Spock is naturally superior when faced with a mental or psionic threat and a heavily contrived love interest becomes laughable. Again, it is the peculiar oneness of Humans that breaks free.

In all of these psychological batterings, Kirk comes through with great reliance on the Kirk-Spock rapport - hence the comfort half of my classification. In fact there is so much emphasis on this that none of the other characters get much of a look in, McCoy is held back from his normal fire and the rest are merely filling the uniforms. The new characters that M and C bring in tend to be extremely one-dimensional and often they seem to have been created to fill a gap in the plot rather than the other way around.

These repeated themes and the deep soul-searching mean that I have become more and more disillusioned with M and C. I first read them in 'Star Trek Lives!' which I enjoyed immensely but the more they produce the more I become fed up with them. The last two novels have a lot of similarities and the weaknesses are becoming more obvious. 'Triangle' has a number of artificial characters and the points where the authors

thought they were creating tension are glaringly obvious.

Occasionally M and C have some interesting ideas and some new angles on how the characters and their inter-relationships work but the way they present it just spoils it as far as I'm concerned. Hopefully, the M and C fans out there will explain the other side of the argument to me.

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William Shatner, Sondra Marshak, Myrna Culbreath



Martin Street

WILLIAM SHATNER

extracted from *Warp Speed Ahead*, by Rick Marin, pp 20-24 of TV Guide July 24-30 1993

sent by Daniel H Allshouse

You remember the *old* William Shatner; arrogant, egotistical, pompous and annoyed by the Star Trek fans who saluted him as Captain Kirk. Now meet the *new* William Shatner; trying very hard to be self-reflective and even sympathetic to the obsessed Trekkers he once told on a Saturday Night Live sketch to "Get a life!"

After years of turning his back on sci-fi TV - and winning a whole new audience as host of CBS's successful *Rescue 911* - Shatner, 62, is now executive producer of *TekWar*, a series of four TV movies based on his own sci-fi novels and Marvel Comics line. (The shows will premier in January.) And in a book called *Star Trek Memories*, due out Sept. 17th, he finally talks about the show that made him famous. Credit the two projects with creating the newly sensitive Shatner.

"Doing the book made me tremendously nostalgic for when I was 25 years younger; it was pleasurable in that I was able to touch emotionally people I hadn't spoken to in 25 years; and painful because of some of the things that came up in talking to those people," he says.

Just what came up in the nearly 100 hours of interviews he conducted for the book? "Dislike. People disliked me, something of which I had no awareness at all."

Many in the cast took the chance to tell Shatner off when he interviewed them for the book. Nichelle Nichols, who is not a big Shatner fan, is writing a memoir of her own. James Doohan refused even to talk to him for the book.

Walter Koenig sounded off at his former Captain during their conversation and was "amazed that he listened". Why? "Bill from the beginning believed the credits - that there were three actors above the title, and

the rest of us were below," Koenig says. "The rest of us were not significant, not only as actors, but as people."

Harsh stuff. But Shatner doesn't deny it. "I say in the foreword of the book that I was too busy with everything in my life, including learning 10 pages of dialogue per show, to pay too much mind to what was going on around me. So the people's lives and their needs and desires were secondary to what I was doing." Asked if he's appalled by his arrogance in those days, he says it was "not so much arrogance as single-mindedness, which I think was my most unpleasant feature."

Not everybody is down on "Bill". Leonard Nimoy is a close friend. He's on good terms with DeForest Kelley. D C Fontana, a writer for Star Trek, says her dealings with Shatner were "always very pleasant". Looking back, Shatner remembers "three years of fatigue" and the strain the job put on his first marriage, which ended in divorce (he has since remarried). He never did drugs, he says, because "my drug was work".

Star Trek Memories was written with Chris Kreski. Doing the book seems to have mellowed him on Trek-mania. He still hates signing autographs - "I find it annoying" - but he'll do the Trek conventions (at up to \$25,000 per appearance), and the fans are glad to have him.

Shatner now understands why his show developed an almost cultish following. While working on the book, he says, "I became totally sympathetic to the fans, whereas before I didn't understand the fanaticism". For him, Star Trek was just another acting job, but interviewing writers, art directors and editors gave him different insights into the series. Finding out how others saw him made him a little more

reflective and real than the slick, charming star-tripper he's been in the past.

The Tek books started when Shatner was killing time during a strike on the set of *Star Trek V*, which he directed. He conceived *TekWar* as a screenplay. Sci-fi novelist and ghostwriter Ron Goulart crafted it into a novel. The idea was to put "TJ Hooker in the future", Shatner says, alluding to his hit 1982-87 cop show. Shatner shopped the idea around. Nobody wanted it - including Paramount, the studio of a million *Star Trek* spinoffs. Then Canada-based Atlantis Films bought the rights (Shatner himself is from Montreal) and teamed up with Universal. If

the four made-for-TV *Tek* movies get good ratings, it could turn into a weekly series.

He hardly ever watches television. He doesn't watch *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, has never seen *Deep Space Nine*, and abruptly denies the rumour that there is any friction between himself and Patrick Stewart, who as Capt. Picard now boldly goes where Shatner had gone before.

James Tiberius Kirk retired in *Star Trek VI*. For good? "I think not," Shatner says. "I'm not sure with whom or how many, but I think that *Star Trek VII* will come about."

☆☆☆☆

THE EMPIRE vs THE FEDERATION

by Brian Proctor

Re TNG Federation meeting the Empire from *Star Wars*, N/L 29

Star Wars is a good film, but there is no FACT to the distances travelled in it. The only reason the whole galaxy has been explored is because it sounds good, whereas *Star Trek* only has 11% of the galaxy explored because they have stuck to FACT and the time it would take to cross the galaxy if it was all explored and populated.

For example; if a vessel was to travel 1 parsec at warp 5 (125 times the speed of light, 134,901,450,000 km/h) it would take 9 days to travel the distance, and this time is used, but in *SW* that time is too long, so they ignore the real time taken and a couple of hours later they arrive at their destination.

The fastest vessel in *SW* only travels TWICE the speed of light, which means it would take 26 weeks just to travel a light year, and ONE & A HALF YEARS to travel 1 parsec. And as the *SW* vessels have lasers when they enter lightspeed, their weaponry is useless, so Starfleet could pick off the Empire before they reach anywhere; also lasers can't damage Federation vessels and would not even weaken their shields; whereas phasers would slice through the

Empire's shields and vessels with ease. The *Star* destroyers have the manoeuvrability of a beached whale, so they couldn't manoeuvre out of range of Federation vessels or have the sublight speed to outrun them.

Then you have your ION CANNON, which poses more of a problem, but the Empire's target lock is far inferior to the Federation's and could easily be jammed by the vastly superior scanners on Federation vessels.

The TIE fighters would not be a threat either, because they only carry laser guns. The TIE bomber is more of a threat because it carries concussion missiles as well as laser guns, but unfortunately (fortunately) the missiles are easily jammed.

Even the Death Star would not be a big problem as it is only good against large slow-moving objects and could easily be destroyed with a matter/antimatter explosion; or the Federation's scanners could easily pick up the Death Star's weakness and send a programmed photon torpedo into the exhaust port to start the chain reaction.

The Federation DOES possess the power to destroy planets. A large antimatter

explosion on or inside a planet's surface would result in the destruction of the planet.

Ground assault vehicles have the same problems if they are faced with armoured Federation troops. AT-ATs only carry laser guns and their armour is not designed to deflect phaser fire so phasers would cut into the armour and do damage with every shot. Even hand units would damage an AT-AT (especially when set to disrupt). Also Federation fighters would destroy the AT-ATs before they got a chance to disembark the storm troopers inside them.

AT-ATs could cause damage as they carry concussion grenade launchers, but they would soon fall victim to phaser fire.

Storm troopers would easily be defeated as their armour is designed to deflect laser fire, and a phaser would cut straight through them.

Ground assault vehicles could also be shot at from orbiting vessels as their superior targeting systems would enable them to pick off the AT-ATs with ease.

Transporters could also be used for assaults against the Empire's vessel or for planting a small anti-matter device inside the bridge of a star destroyer (transporting over a magnetic bottle full of antimatter then beaming back the bottle leaving the contents behind). Transporters could be used while

the Empire's shields are still raised as they do not enclose the entire vessel like they do in ST.

Light sabres are only used by Jedi Knights, but there aren't many of them around these days.

The computers in ST are superior to the computers in SW. ST also has artificial intelligence in droids, but they use more powerful computers instead of using droids. ST has TWO androids (Data and Lore) and they are far superior to any droid in SW. SW relies on droids whereas ST relies on computers.

Probe droids and assassin droids would also be no threat as they only carry laser guns.

And before anyone mentions The Force, as the Empire would be outside their own galaxy they might not be able to tap into The Force in this galaxy (if there is one) as it would probably be on a different 'wave length'.

Conclusion - the Federation would win in a battle simply because they have superior weaponry, manoeuvrability, vessels and resources.

Info from the STAR WARS SOURCEBOOK and STARFLEET TECHNICAL MANUAL

☆☆☆☆☆

AVERY BROOKS

compiled by William Marsh

Born and raised in Indiana, Brooks early aspired to be an actor. He attended Oberlin College and Indiana University and then went on to Rutgers University where he became the first black MFA graduate in acting and directing.

Brooks has a long list of theatrical credits, gaining great acclaim playing the lead in the Phillip Hayes Dean play, Paul Robeson, at many places from LA'S

Westwood Playhouse to Broadway.

He has played major roles in many successful American series such as A Man Called Hawk and Spenser: For Hire. Brooks played in the huge hit mini-series Roots and earned a Cable ACE award nomination for his portrayal of the lead in the film Uncle Tom's Cabin.

The part of Commander Sisko in

ST:DS9 came along when he was offered the script by his agent; Brooks was very taken by it and eventually got the role. He believes very strongly in the morals of Star Trek and in Gene Roddenberry's vision of the future.

The one major disappointment for Brooks with his DS9 role is that in order to film he has had to leave his family in New Jersey; while filming he lives out of an LA hotel room.

He receives a vast amount of fan mail and it started arriving even before the pilot for DS9 was aired! Many conventions have requested him to attend, but so far (August 1993) he has declined them all.

In America he is a very respected actor, director, musician and teacher and for the past thirteen years he has been a tenured professor at the Mason Gross School of Arts.

☆☆☆☆

WHEN IS A CLUB NOT A CLUB?

by

Jacqueline Y. Comben

With the last newsletter, we received a flyer for The Official U.K. Fan 'Club'. We all, of course, already belong to a Fan Club - in my opinion, the best in Britain. Many of us belong to more than one, because different Clubs offer different things. Why join another? Clearly, no one will be tempted unless the new Club offers something novel or gives better value than an existing one.

Normally, however, there is no doubt that one is actually joining a club. In this latest case, I am not at all sure that would be true. What is a Club? Surely it is an organisation run for fans by fans. The so-called Official U.K. 'Club' is run by a marketing organisation with links to CIC Video. Its purpose is to make a profit. When, at Contagion, I queried the accuracy of its name, I said that I hesitated to call it a rip-off, but that a marketing service for fans would be a better description of its actual purpose.

The person representing the marketing organisation, who quite liked Original Trek, has not watched TNG and 'is hooked on Deep Space Nine', basically replied that this was a matter of semantics. I leave you to form your own opinion.

However, let us compare the new Club' with its nearest equivalent, The Official Fan Club, run in the U.S.A.. This has the merit of having certainly begun as a

genuine fan club. The annual subscription is \$11.95 (£8) in the U.S.: to us, about £12 including postage, if you buy the magazines via a U.K. supplier. This brings you six magazine-style newsletters per year, each with about 12 pages of glossy pictures and tight packed text, as well as a lot of advertisements. The U.K. 'Club' costs £14.99 per year and provides only four magazines. At first sight, the first seems larger than the U.S. version, but there are so many large pictures, so much empty space and such large fonts that the amount of information it contains is less than in the cheaper U.S. magazine. We are offered, of course, products from Britain, available with less postage and with, one would expect, less wait for delivery. However, a nylon jacket costs £75 as against an embroidered satin jacket from America for \$77, postage on any order over \$75 is \$12. If someone buys only the jacket it would thus cost \$89 in total (about £59). This is not the only example of a better product available from the U.S. at a lower price.

We were informed that certain products would be available only through the Official U.K. 'Club'. This, I am afraid, smacks to me of blackmail.

I was rather bemused, at first, as to how a brand new Club could have contributions to a Letter Column, until a glance showed me that the page was actually

two advertisements, one for CIC video, the other for Pocket Books, masquerading as letters to the Editor.

It is, of course, up to each fan whether or not he or she subscribes to any service or organisation, but, for myself, I will not pay the marketing organisation in Britain, but

will continue as a member of the U.S. Club. The representative of the U.K. organisation declared, darkly, that the U.S. Club is not licenced. As it is, in effect, run by Paramount, its newsletter carrying the Paramount copyright and logo, it hardly needs a licence, as it would be rather unusual to issue one to a subsidiary of one's own corporation.

☆☆☆☆

MEMORIES OF STAR TREK

by Dawn Tittley

One of my earliest memories is of sitting on my mum's knee, watching Star Trek: I was only about four at the time and although I can barely remember the stories, the music stayed in my mind from that time on. As I grew older I moved away from Trek and SF altogether, but that music always struck a chord. Then, when I was twelve, I discovered the other great love of my life, Star Wars. Just as Gene Roddenberry's Trek had led the way for George Lucas' Wars, so Star Wars led me back to Trek, via The Next Generation.

When I think back to my childhood, various things stick out in my memory; hiding behind a sofa while watching Trek, when mum would tell us that, "The aliens are coming to get you!"; listening to my dad's Beatles records on a Sunday morning; and desperately wanting a pet. Well, now we have a dog, I listen to the Beatles because *I* want to; and the recent BBC reruns of Classic Trek are as fascinating to me as they ever were, even if I don't hide behind the sofa any more. (Well, not often, anyway!)

And, as I'm watching Trek, week by week, I find I'm recognising more about each episode than I thought I knew. I guess more information stayed in my four-year-old memory than I have given myself credit for. I'm remembering the developing friendship and humour between Kirk, Spock and McCoy; Mr Scott's dulcet, and almost convincing, accent; and, just recently, the character who was always my favourite, Mr. Chekov. (Although I have to admit to finding Mr Spock *much* more appealing every

time I watch!)

About five years ago, I heard rumours about a new Star Trek series having been made. Not being involved with fandom at that time, I had no way of finding out how true this was. Until, on visiting my local video store one day, I spotted the video of Star Trek: The Next Generation. I was so excited I hired it out and my mum, my sister and I watched it that very night. From the first bars of that old, familiar theme tune, through the tune remembered from the Star Trek movies, and then to the new cast of characters, we all fell in love straight away. Although some of the humour has been lost, as we watched on the show developed its own brand of humour, particularly in the case of my favourite character, Mr Data. Although very similar to Mr Spock in some ways, he is really the opposite. Spock was always turning his back on his Humanity, whereas Data wants nothing more than to be Human. As Commander Riker has said, "Hello, Pinocchio."

It was about a year ago that I became involved in fandom, and the opportunity to write and talk to other fans has been wonderful. I attended my first con last August, at Rec-Con. It was a wonderful experience, and one I'm hoping will be repeated at Warp One. I've met some great people since last year, even when I went on holiday; recently I met a girl from South Africa who had only seen TNG while in America, and couldn't get to see it at home. We now write regularly and swap news, etc.

Maybe what I've written doesn't mean much to anyone but me, but I guess what I'm trying to say is that fandom, to me, is all about people. Meeting new friends, seeing old friends, and generally having a good time. And talking of people, I often think

about what my life would be like if Gene Roddenberry hadn't stuck to his guns and battled with the networks to get his show on the air. The only thing left to say is, Thank you, Gene, from myself and everyone who is a Star Trek fan.

☆☆☆☆

STAR TREK Word DEEP SPACE NINE Search

by Mark Mclean

Instructions:

*Find The
Following Words
That are Taken
From Star Trek
Deep Space 9*

IMGUPCVXNAQXDOUSASAXCLQXX
WOHDASAJLUGZQUARKRBXGKFBHZZ
NJXNCYRIHSABROTCODINNHVAUFJ
BNEIRBOFEIHCGJNSWMGKSHLMXGR
GAMMAQUADRANTKOAHYVDRJBUWLZ
XTDUAUKOKSISEKAJSPGBOOAKDPZ
FTSVAVLIEUTENANTDAXQADJLPK
ALHYBNAISSADRACMWJMGZGOAFTC
PYLILMUCOMMANDERSISKOMUHMZO
MZVXLWHELOHMROWXJROJABNWQEQ

Bajor
Cardassian
Chief O'Brien
Commander Sisko
Doctor Bashir
Gamma Quadrant
Gul Jasad
Jake Sisko
Lieutenant Dax
Major Kira
Nog
Odo
Quark
Worm Hole

QUOTATIONS

by Mark Cottam

Who said the following? - and in which TNG episode?

- 1) "What a terrible way to die."
- 2) "Drink not with thine enemy, the rigid Klingon code."
- 3) "How the mighty have fallen."
- 4) "Indeed. Twenty four is the gateway to a heroic salvation."
- 5) "It doesn't understand anything except what it's peddling."
- 6) "What's so troublesome about not having died?"
- 7) "He's a trader. He doesn't attract customers by being hard to find."
- 8) "As far as I am concerned, the experiment is over!"
- 9) "Not I think today, Commander."
- 10) "A cook is only as good as his ingredients."

11) "Then I assume you challenge my authority over you."

12) "They will be coming."

13) "Hey, it's the same dance, it's just a different tune."

14) "Does he have any friends; has he ever been in love?"

15) "This isn't right... it's changed."

STAR TREK QUIZ

by Helen White

In which episode(s) do the following appear?

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. Gorn | 6. Eymorgs |
| 2. Halkans | 7. Kelvans |
| 3. Talosians | 8. Melkotians |
| 4. Horta | 9. Vians |
| 5. Iotians | 10. Troglytes |

Answers on page 86/87.

☆☆☆☆

REVIEWS - BOOKS/VIDEOS ETC.



FROM THE DEPTHS by Victor Milan
Pocket 66 \$5.50 (£4.70)
Reviewed by Sheila Clark

Okeanos is a water world with only a few islands to provide dry land. It had been settled by a group of refugees from the Eugenics Wars - people Khan and his like would have considered inferior, who now form a sizeable community. But they are not the only people living on Okeanos; the Susuru, who live on the islands, have been at war with the colonists for almost as long as the colony has been there, and have now called on the Federation for help against the Human invaders... and the Klingons are helping the Susuru. The Enterprise, carrying Deputy Commissioner Moriah Wayne (representing Interspecies Affairs) is sent to remove the Human colonists from Okeanos - a world where an intelligent native species lived prior to the colonisation.

If one overlooks the feasibility of a oppressed group being able to acquire a spacecraft at the time of the Eugenics Wars, this is a reasonably well-thought-out story. I have certain doubts about Mr Milan's own characters, especially Moriah Wayne - I would have thought her basic instability would have been picked up by someone at one of her medicals; but Mr Milan seems to have shared those misgivings, because he does manage to come up with an explanation for it. There is also an interesting twist which I did not see coming.

The cover picture (something I rarely mention) is *bad*. It consists of the heads of Kirk (presumably), a Klingon, and what is apparently meant to be one of the floating cities of Okeanos - except it seems to be hanging in mid-air. The Klingon's forehead is so wrinkled it looks like a map of the Himalayas; as for Kirk, while the eyes are right, the lower half of the face is totally wrong.

I would hesitate to call this one of the most memorable of stories (in other words the plot sinks into the general morass of Trek novel plots and is forgotten in a week) but the writing and development raise it a little above average, at least while it is being read. 8 out of 10.

SHADOWS ON THE SUN by Michael Jan Friedman Pocket hardback \$22 (£18.70)
Reviewed by Sheila Clark

Forty years earlier, McCoy, a trainee Starfleet Doctor, was sent to Ssan to give medical aid during a vicious civil war. On Ssan, a high birthrate meant serious overpopulation, and assassination had for many years been an honoured tradition; a new government was seeking to use birth control as a preferable option to assassination, and at the same time outlaw the Assassins. (The Shadows on the Sun are people; the Assassins believe that with each death, a shadow is removed from the sun.)

Now, a new group of Assassins has arisen and is threatening the stability of the planet (now a member of the Federation), and the Enterprise is sent to help. The diplomats sent with the ship are the highly successful husband and wife partnership of Clay and Jocelyn Treadway - and Jocelyn just happens to be McCoy's ex-wife.

The story is set post ST VI; the ship is actually on her way to be decommissioned when she is sent on this final mission.

The book is basically in three parts; the 'now' situation on Ssan, the situation 40 years previously, and a return to the 'now' situation.

It started well. I found I quite enjoyed the first two parts, but then suddenly lost interest early on in the third part - I'm not completely sure why, but I suspect that much of the reason was provided a) by my realisation at that point that this story is basically a typical love triangle story, with the situation on Ssan simply a plot device to get the characters together, and b) by the Treadways. Clay was totally ineffective - if there was a way of doing anything wrong, he did it. As for Jocelyn... Well, she was a strong enough character, the real diplomat of the two - *but...*

I can see some folk saying "Oh, isn't it *romantic!*" that McCoy should still be passionately in love with his ex-wife forty years later - and that she should still love him. Frankly, I'm not one of them. I can believe that the forty-year-old tension between Clay Treadway and McCoy could still exist, especially with Jocelyn there to remind both men of the basic cause of it. I can appreciate that Jocelyn might realise that she'd made a mistake and want to rectify it, even after forty years; I can't believe that McCoy would still be in love with her.

In short, for me the whole book was much ado about something I couldn't believe in. I've read several fan-written stories about McCoy's ex-wife - I even wrote one - and haven't found any of them (even my own) particularly convincing. This is no better. It's well-written - Mr Friedman is a good writer -

it's just a pity his basic plot is so Mills & Boon-ish. However, romantics among McCoy fans will probably enjoy it.

BLOODLETTER by K W Jeter DS9 3 Pocket Books \$5.50 (£4.70)

Reviewed by Sheila Clark

The Cardassians have plans to construct a base at the Gamma Quadrant end of the wormhole, thus claiming the unexplored territory beyond. In an attempt to stop this, Sisko sends Kira and Bashir through the wormhole in a recycled quarantine module.

Unfortunately the module has a third passenger; Horen Rygis, leader of a fanatical Bajoran religious group called Redemptorists (Horen being the Bloodletter of the title). Some years previously, a group of Redemptorists had taken hostage nearly a hundred non-Redemptorists. They issued a list of demands, and threatened to kill one hostage each hour until these were met. When they began to carry out their threat, Kira led an assault against them and rescued all but half a dozen of the hostages - and the Redemptorists were all killed. Although the dead were considered martyrs, Horen had never forgiven Kira for this, and regarded her as a traitor whose death was necessary for the good of Bajor.

Horen's supporters had managed to sabotage the module so that the shielding on the engines was lost while it was in the wormhole. Since the emissions from unshielded engines gave considerable pain to the inhabitants of the wormhole, they reacted to defend themselves (Sisko having promised them that all ships entering would be shielded), resulting in Bashir being trapped inside the wormhole and Kira - and Horen - being stranded in the Gamma Quadrant.

I approached this book with some optimism - the last DS9 novel was good - and certainly within the limits of the plot it was better than many of the CT or TNG novels. However, I did founder, so to speak, on one little problem that the writer appears not to have considered (or perhaps, considering that the book must have been written with only

one or two scripts as background, hadn't realised); ships going into the wormhole from DS9 could certainly have their engines shielded; but what about ships originating from the Gamma Quadrant? Also I had some problems understanding Horen's reactions to Kira. If he wanted to kill her, why did he spend so long gloating over her? I realise the writer's purpose was to string out the suspense and show that Horen wasn't quite sane (it also lengthened the book); and I could have understood the 'cat hunting the mouse' reaction if Kira had reacted with fear, but she didn't.

I did like the writer's treatment of Bashir. The Doctor was shown as inept in his dealings with people (especially women) but he managed fine when faced with the inhabitants of the wormhole and better than fine when faced with a technical/mechanical problem.

I also liked the treatment of Odo when he was investigating Horen's presence on the station. Indeed, it was so nicely done I found myself wondering if the writer was predominately a writer of whodunnits rather than SF. I'd give this 7 out of 10.

GUISES OF THE MIND by Rebecca Neason
Pocket TNG27 \$5.50 (£4.70)
Reviewed by Sheila Clark

The young King Joakal of Capulon IV is close to his thirtieth birthday, when he will become *Absolute* - the absolute monarch of his world - a world where telepathy was once common but is no longer found - lost to their God's displeasure generations before. Among other things, he plans to sign a treaty with the Federation, and the Enterprise is en route to Capulon a) to sign the treaty and b) to deliver there two 'Little Mothers' - representatives of a religious order devoted to the well-being of children, who are, on Joakal's invitation, about to set up a House on Capulon.

There is treachery afoot, however. The King's long-lost identical twin brother appears, and with only three people knowing about it, captures Joakal and takes his place; he sees only the privilege of Kingship, a

privilege he feels he has been deprived of for thirty years because he was the younger twin. His rule can be nothing but disaster for his world because he is unaware - and uncaring - that the King has any duties towards his subjects.

This is predominately a Troi story, though I can't help wondering if it is in part also something of a Mary Sue, because the three pivotal characters are Troi, Mother Veronica of the Little Mothers, and Elana, Joakal's promised bride. All Ms Neason's own characters are well-drawn, however, with motivations in which the reader can believe - not just the above women; and although the idea of the long-lost twin who is believed to be dead comes straight out of the Gothic novel, the story does move well, and the Enterprise characters are in character when they appear. (Though each one does have his 'big scene' fans of Riker or Data, for example, won't find them doing much.) I've been iffy about a lot in many of the novels; there's really nothing in this one I can fault. I'd give it 9 out of 10, and it goes straight into my top three TNG novels - indeed, it goes to the number one spot. Considering the quality of most of the others, that isn't a miraculous feat, but I feel it does do it on merit, not just because so many of the others are so unmemorable. I'll be watching out for Ms Neason's name in future.

IMZADI by Peter David Pocket Books £4.50
Reviewed by David Parsons

With a recent fall in the quality of TNG novels over the past few months, Imzadi provided me with a refreshing boost to my belief that there *are* good authors around.

As most TNG fans will know, 'Imzadi' is the Betazoid term for beloved; in this case Will Riker, Deanna Troi's 'Imzadi'. The story is set 40 years in the future, after the death - yes, death - of Deanna. Before this puts you off, let me just say that the book is, in essence, an adventure across time, so don't despair!

Peter David provides some quite clever insights into what the future may hold, such as the Enterprise 1701-F under the command

of *Commodore* Data, and minicomunicators implanted into the heads of Starfleet personnel so that only they can hear what's being said!

However, *Imzadi* is not a book for those who are technologically orientated - it is a love story of powerful, and at times heartrending, emotivity. It is sensitive and witty, yet thrilling and tense. As Dawn Tittley so correctly pointed out in *N/L 29*, *David* is a fan. The character interaction is quite simply the most accurate I have ever seen; an integral part of any good *Trek* novel, and a part that many authors don't even consider to be important. The plot twists and turns literally from page to page, and *David* cunningly leaves several of the major plot arcs until the very end.

Peter David has, in my mind, proved himself to be the best TNG novelist around, with such gripping novels as *Strike Zone*, *A Rock* and *a Hard Place* and the renowned *Vendetta*. *Imzadi* blows them all away!

If there are any Classic Trekkies who haven't been 'converted' or any TNG fans put off by the bad press which novels have been receiving, I can wholeheartedly stake my opinion on this novel as the one to buy. And with 342 pages, who can complain?

ST:TNG - STARFLEET ACADEMY 1: Worf's First Adventure by Peter David. Reviewed by Paul Hulford

Worf's first adventure is the first part of a trilogy of Worf tales, based on his time at the Academy. It is a small book of about 110 pages, including a few illustrations, aimed towards the younger reader. It deals with Worf and his brother who leave for the Academy together. They make some friends - some enemies too - play a few jokes on each other and go on a training mission. And that's about it.

Judging by the first volume, this 'trilogy' looks as if it is just one book cut up into 3 parts. Part 1 could be read as a self-contained story, but I wouldn't recommend it. It is a 'scene-setting' book and as such succeeds quite well. We learn of Worf's

brother - who, Worf is convinced, will sail through the Academy - and watch his downfall in the first weeks of training. We learn of Worf's Academy friends and of the prejudices of others. But the most interesting part concerns Worf's history. It is very consistent with the TV episodes, and is a lot better conceived than David Gerrold's history in *Encounter at Farpoint*.

As with all Peter David ST books this is an easy and amusing read. Mr David knows the character and does not abuse him. The usual reference to OT bound, but for a change Mr David does not poke fun at the TNG characters as he does in his other books.

All in all I would say I enjoyed this book - but only as part of a trilogy. It rates a 7 out of 10 but comes with this warning. If you have a young child who will read this, or if it is to be read to a young child, be ready with explanations of the words *barette*, *inevitability*, *transliterated* and *mnemonic*, all of which appear in the first chapter!

CAPTAIN'S LOGS: THE COMPLETE TREK VOYAGES by E Gross & M A Altman
Image Publishing 1993 270 pages; £14.99
Reviewed by Edward Woo

This is another large format book by these two writers who claim that this is the Ultimate *Trek* Book. I wouldn't necessarily agree with that, even though it is a good book (but a trifle expensive). You cannot read this book all at once, as I found out. However, regular dips into each chapter makes the best method of reading it.

It's a well produced, glossy book and cover with the standard B & W photos of the cast plus a mid section of coloured photos, including two nice photos of Kirk, Spock & McCoy from the Original *Trek* and TMP. There's also a distinguished photo of Picard and Sisko beside each other.

The book covers Original *Trek*, the Animated Series, the Movies, TNG to Season 5 and the beginnings of DS9. There is a brief synopsis of the episodes. The whole of the book is devoted to the behind-the-scenes stories with writers, directors and the

principal production staff giving their views. and burn the game!

As with any topic, there is plenty of debate and different points of view. Of course, ST politics come into the frame with Paramount's attempt to revive the ST series with STII and their attempts to find the right script, the ins and outs of TMP and the hasty departure of writers in the first year of TNG.

This book might not suit everyone, but it is an opening for the reader to discover what makes a TV show successful; just like *The Enemy Within*, the positive and negative of Star Trek's history.

ST:TNG 'HOW TO HOST A MYSTERY GAME' Reviewed by Amanda Spence & Jim Robertson

Having bought 'How to Host a Mystery', we eagerly opened the box, to find that half of it was packaging (the bigger the box the more they feel justified in charging). The rest of the contents comprised eight invitation cards, eight character booklets, eight secret clues and an audio tape.

Once we'd read the instructions, we picked a date and sent out the invites to the people who were to play the various characters - Ro, Beverly, Guinan, Troi, Worf, Geordi, Riker and Data.

On the night the game (party) was to take place, we settled down to get started. Unfortunately, like the TNG episode *The Game*, anyone trying to actually play this soon became *Brain Dead*.

The character booklets reveal various clues at certain points in the game. The trouble is that not even the guilty party knows who is at fault until the end! The clues are confusing and misleading, and you're left with a feeling of frustration that what should have been an enjoyable game was not, mainly due to the fact that a) there is no over all conclusion to the game and b) the people writing the game do not watch Star Trek, and just jumped on the gravy train.

If you've bought the game, then invite your friends, have the party, enjoy the drink

"THE WORST OF BOTH WORLDS"

ST:TNG Comic book storyline - #47-50
Published by DC Comics
Written by Michael Jan Friedman
Reviewed by James C. Connarty

Imagine what the lives of the Enterprise-D's crew would be like if the Borg had won! The Enterprise defeated; Starfleet crushed; Earth's population assimilated into the Borg collective, and Jean-Luc Picard still a prisoner to the Borg implants as the being known as Locutus.

This is the basic premise of the recent series in DC's TNG comic book. Titled "The Worst of Both Worlds", this four-part story sees the Enterprise crew we know & love drawn by a spacial anomaly into a universe staggeringly different from their own, and captured by their counterparts. The crew of the "second" Enterprise, bereft of the saucer section which was destroyed by the Borg, take command of the original ship, holding it and its passengers hostage to "motivate" the bridge crew into helping them.

Their task: free this universe's Picard, still Locutus, from the Borg Enclave, and find some way to drive the invaders from the occupied-Earth.

Add to this main plot, a Shelby-counterpart disenchanted with "Captain" Riker's leadership and leading a group of mutineers which includes a widowed Chief O'Brien and Ensign Crusher; a battle between both Enterprises and the Borg vessel; and the death of a bridge-crew member in a last-ditch rescue attempt, and you've got a recipe for a winner.

Written by Michael Jan Friedman, author of several ST:TNG novels, notably, at least in my opinion, *Reunion*, the series is a must for all Best of both Worlds fans. The artwork is very true to the series, and the cover of the double-sized 50th issue is simply breathtaking. The series runs through issues 47-50 and if you can get your hands on them I guarantee that you won't be disappointed.

DEEP SPACE NINE - COMIC BOOK Issue

1 Published monthly by Malibu Comics Entertainment.

Writer - Mike W Barr, Penciller - Gordon Purcell, Inker - Terry Pallot, Letterer - Patricia Ousley, Editor - Tom Mason Cost - \$2.50 (£1.70)

Reviewed by Alan Stephen

As a comic book fan, I've often been disappointed by comics books based on Star Trek, though mostly now the stories range from good to excellent. The art often leaves a lot to be desired, with especially the characters rarely looking like the actors who play the parts on TV.

Malibu Comics have managed to do a great DS9 story with excellent art. The characters, throughout the comic, constantly look like the actors and the backgrounds are perfect, with the feel of the TV show.

They have even slipped in a character called Captain Johnson of the exploratory ship Armstrong, who looks uncannily like John Tesa of Entertainment Tonight fame (a Sky One TV show) who incidentally is a huge Star Trek fan and appeared on ST:TNG as a Klingon.

OK, I've enthused enough on the art; how is the story?

The Armstrong has returned from its mission in the Gamma Quadrant. Assigned to the ship is xenoarchaeologist Dr Josiah Wembley, who has brought back some artifacts.

Chief Miles O'Brien is assigned the task of storing the artifacts. While on his way to the hold, a mist or mould released earlier by Jake and Nog engulfs him. Fortunately he is rescued before any harm is done. The crew is uncertain if the mould has anything to do with the artifacts, or is a substance left behind by the Cardassians.

The story is exciting and very readable, with some nice character scenes, especially between Jake and Nog, and Odo and Quark.

The second issue will come polybagged

with a DS9 trading card from Skybox.

MODEL KITS

**STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION 3
PIECE ADVERSARY SET** (model ships by AMT Ertl) Reviewed by Stephen Daniels.

I paid £11.99 for this kit in a shop in Kelso; as it was my first model kit I neglected to purchase glue and paint too, but I got those a couple of days later! Assembly was quite easy, as all the pieces are quite large, but please note that this is basically a model of a Romulan Warbird (12.75" long); the Ferengi Marauder and Klingon Bird of Prey measure in at a tiny 3.25 - 3.5" inches long. The set includes a stand for the three ships, but they do not clip on; you have to use a blue tacky substance to attach them, or you can glue them if you don't want to play spaceships with them!

The second ship I got was the TNG Enterprise by Playmates/Ban Dai from the Wonderland Models shop in Edinburgh (I noticed they had other models, including a TNG shuttlecraft - Goddard - and a phaser with "lights and sound"). This model is a collectors' edition and mine was 'only' number 374917! The ship comes ready assembled with the exception of the warp engine nacelles which clip on and light up when any of the four realistic sound effects are activated. The sound effects are the low rumbling Impulse Power, the Warp Drive activating, the Phasers firing followed by an explosion (unfortunately) and my favourite, the Photon Torpedoes. The price is a rather steep £32.75; this includes authentic decals and batteries. The only snag is that I had to paint all 2072 windows in by hand randomly with black and white paint. I also soldered in a light behind the main deflector dish so that it lit up too, but this was quite hard to do as the ship comes partly glued together as well as screwed. A stand is NOT included.

I asked if the tricorder by Playmates would be on sale soon, and was told that Paramount had stopped their release because one of the stickers on the front was wrong, but it should be out in 1994.



ZINE REVIEWS

MAKE IT SO 14 Reviewed by Morag Phillips

From Christa luminous cover to the last word of Debbie Lee's 'Lost and Found', Make It So 14 is a treasure trove of fan fiction at its finest.

Of particular note are two pieces of art by 'Maxine'; 'Letting Go' by Lee Sansome (Riker's feelings as he accedes to the Captain's chair whilst Picard is a prisoner of the Borg); The Right Born by Gaile Wood and the aforementioned 'Lost and Found'.

In The Right Born, Gaile Wood uses her brilliant descriptive abilities to introduce us to a new and utterly convincing alien species whilst capturing the characters we are so familiar with with enviable ease.

Lost and Found, whilst a trifle unlikely in its initial premise (Dr Crusher *removes* her com badge and it is subsequently transported to the Enterprise, fooling the computer that she is aboard) soon settles into a galloping romp across the galaxy in true Star Trek style, taking in a study of Bev Crusher's character, the impact of her 'loss' upon her crewmates, a new and surprising life form and a familiar 'villain'.

I also enjoyed Inquest on a Final Mission (no guesses what that's about!); Remembering Q; Captains, Doctors and Rogue Archaeologists and Surprise, Surprise (although I had it figured out what the 'alien' was from early on. All the artwork was admirable if not outstanding).

Do you get the message? Make It So 14 is ScoTpress's best effort to date (I haven't read MIS 15 yet). Read it if you have to beg, borrow or 'steal' it; read it. You may never buy another 'Titan' again.

Make It So 14, £4, is available from ScoTpress - see Zine Ads.

MAKE IT SO 15

Reviewed by Debbie Lee

The new A5 format from ScoTpress debuts here as Make It So 15, and is most impressive. (Plus that, it doesn't hurt your nose if you fall asleep while reading it in bed.) At last, a zine that you can get into your handbag - that is, for those of us who have handbags! Make It So 15 features six stories and two poems. The stories are warriors by Gail Christison, The End by Lisa Dearnley-Davison, Truth Unveiled by Bonnie Holmyard, The Hunter and the Hunted by Lisa Dearnley-Davison, Survival by Gail Christison and Full Marks by Gaile Wood.

My favourite of all of these is the Bonnie Holmyard story called Truth Unveiled..., which combines two great interests of mine, TN and tarot, to great effect. An unusual story, nicely told. The two Gail Christison ones are as good a read as ever, the first a short holodeck story entitled Warriors, the second one called Survival. Both feature Tasha Yar and Worf as the main characters, and are written in Gail's usual inspired way.

Anyone who has encountered Lisa Dearnley-Davison in previous editions of Make It So will be familiar with this writer's distinctive style. Interestingly enough, she's managed to rework this without spoiling it to deliver a story out of the usual way called The End, which features Geordi La Forge. The Hunter and the Hunted is much longer, and different yet again in delivery - Riker is in danger and the Enterprise is racing against time to save a planet.

The final story is Full Marks by Gaile Wood, and combines a clever plot with Gaile's gift for narrative. She has a knack of introducing very believable races and unusual groups into the TNG universe and the occupants of the Ark are no exception. A 24th century equivalent of New Age Travellers, maybe? Needless to say, Picard et

al have their work cut out for them when they encounter Aaron Fielding and his band of followers.

Make It So 15 is 102 printed pages long, making it exceptional value for money at £2.50. Available from ScoTpress, see zine ads.

IDIC LOG 9 Reviewed by Karen Sparks

Are you sitting comfortably? Then I'll tell you about a story. It's called "The Questors" by Pony Godic (now you could really Get Somewhere In Life with a name like that!) and comprises the second half of this zine.

I was hooked by the opening paragraph which provides an insightful comparison of the ways in which McCoy and Chapel work. As the story unfolds, both characters are portrayed accurately yet without cliches - McCoy does not get drunk (as is his fate in so much Trek fiction) and Chapel comes over as decisive, more than competent and sensitive.

Strong on characterisation, this story also has an interesting and extremely original plot. The Enterprise discovers an all Vulcan ship crippled in space, apparently due to engine trouble. Kirk decides to stay around until their repairs are completed, in case protection is required. Spock is requested by the Vulcan captain to spend some time aboard their ship, accompanied by Chapel, and there the true nature of the problem is revealed to them. Only Spock can provide what they need, and Chapel must choose between her Hippocratic and Starfleet oaths (for the purpose of this story, she is an MD) when she reports back to Kirk and McCoy. A second mystery is skillfully woven into the plot with the approach of a flotilla of strange spacecraft, escorting a huge, unknown artifact.

IDIC Log 9 does contain several other short stories and poems, and the cover is graced by a beautiful drawing of Chapel by Corinne Meyer, but any enjoyment of these seems merely a bonus to the excellent "Questors", which I have no hesitation in

recommending as being worth the price of the zine on its own.

LET'S SEE WHAT'S OUT THERE 1

Reviewed by Taruka Quauhtezcatl

This is a fanzine from a new publisher, so I was pleased to be asked to review it. It is a collection of 12 stories and 6 poems crammed into 100 A4 pages.

Also included are some pieces of artwork. My favourites, for no reason I can think of, are Matthew Christie's The Incomprehensible Ones (yes, he's a Wayne's World fan) and Greetings - Deep Space Nine, which has to be seen to be appreciated.

Lisa Marie Epples poem Scotty made me smile. It stands out from the others because anyone who reads it knows it's true.

The stories are a mixture of Classic and TNG stories, six of each, varying from a series of letters between Wesley Crusher and the Enterprise after the events of First Duty (letters by Morag Phillips), to the beautiful and very funny Scott/McCoy reunion which McCoy thinks is a dream (Scotch Mist by Heather Gibson).

A Test of Diplomacy by Susan Bell is a wonderfully humorous glance at Picard and Troi preparing for a very unusual seminar. I won't say more or it will ruin the story.

Legitimate Targets by Morag Phillips was written as a response to the IRA bombing of Warrington and much of her feelings of anger and shock come through to make this a powerful story of the aftermath of indiscriminate bombing.

Camouflage by Elizabeth 'Heather Gibson' Roberts is a very nicely written TNG story concerning a known killer hiding behind an assumed name. There are some similarities to the story Conscience of the King, but not enough to stop this from standing in its own right. Very readable.

Two Point Three Minutes by Karen Cloney is a fiction competition winner (TKon) and deservedly so. It is short, tight

and very readable. In the H/C category (just) - Kirk is wounded and Spock is sorting out his feelings.

Let The Marines Look After Themselves by Sarah Walker is a good examination of the 'why are there so few female Starfleet officers?' question. An interesting solution, too.

Well, I've read it all five times and it's in my bookcase in case I want to read it again.

£4.99 from Rosetta Publications (profits to Childline)

LOG ENTRIES 90 Reviewed by Jean Sloan

LE 90 is in the new A5 format. For those who may be new to fan fiction, editions of Log Entries contain short stories and poems set in the universe of the Original Trek TV series.

Memories by Sandy Catchick is a retrospective. Spock is injured and McCoy remembers another mission, early on in his relationship with the Vulcan, when Spock was similarly injured because no-one would listen to his reservations about a mission. The story is an exploration of the early relationship between Spock and McCoy, told from McCoy's point of view. As with all Sandy Catchick's stories, characterisation is excellent; it is a story for Spock-McCoy fans, and there is a really unpleasant group of planet colonists to dislike, because they are prejudiced against Vulcans.

Maximum Prejudice by Maggy develops the theme of prejudice also. There are two story lines; Spock suffers at the hands of a crewmember with a xenophobic hatred of Vulcans; severe dust and electrical storms have decimated the surface of Vulcan, and Spock does not know if his mother is alive or dead. The story centres on Spock's handling of these situations, and on the battle within him between his Vulcan and Human sides. Maggy conveys a strong sense of Spock's isolation and of the difficulties he has dealing with Humans, allowing the reader to see the world through Spock's eyes.

The above stories are quite long, and have serious themes. Also serious is Katrina Heintz's shorter piece, Goodbyes, which concerns Janice Rand's feelings about leaving the Enterprise.

The mood changes in three short, humorous tales. David Gallagher has Just What the Doctor Ordered and Eye, Eye, Sir included in the zine. The latter story deals with Kirk getting his eyes tested; the former... Well, just let me say that McCoy's big line is "I'm a Doctor, not a Chippendale." I say no more except that I couldn't stop laughing... particularly at the ironing joke...

The third story in the humour category is What a Nerve by Gloria Fry, in which Kirk tries to learn the Vulcan neck pinch and Spock is complimented on his skill as a masseur.

In addition to stories, the zine contains poetry by Christine J Jones, Linda C Wood, Gillian Catchpole, Jenny Turner and Mrs Pippin. Some poems are comic, some serious, all well written. Mrs Pippin's Rescue Plan is another of the Beautiful Alien Lady series; these poems are narrative, and I would like to end the review by quoting from Rescue Plan.

"A mission from Headquarters, they've mislaid the Fleet en masse
Our orders are to seek out every ship..."

Why the Fleet is lost, and what happens, are mysteries that can only be solved by reading the poem.

Enterprise - Log Entries 90, price £2.50 from ScoTpress, see Zine Ads.

STAR TREK QUIZBOOK

Reviewed by Valerie Piacentini.

This zine is a delight, a quiz and puzzle book compiled for Star Trek fans. It fuses a brilliant mixture of general puzzles given a ST slant, questions, crosswords, wordsearches and logic puzzles. There are jokes and cartoons (okay, own up, who's responsible for 'insufficient Data'?) It covers Classic Trek, Movies and TNG, and just to

add a little variety, there are two Red Dwarf puzzles, and one Blake's Seven.

The zine is excellently produced, with good clear print and diagrams. It is an ideal Christmas stocking-filler, or could be useful as tests for that quiz you're all going to enter at a con one of these years.

Well done, Hull Starfleet.

The Star Trek Quiz Book, 38 pages, is put out by Hull Starfleet, costs £3.00 inclusive of p&p, and is available from Nina Lynch, 54, Claremont Ave, Hull, North Humberside, HU6 7LZ

☆☆☆☆



NEW ZINES



SciTpress

ENTERPRISE - LOG ENTRIES 90 - NEW A5 FORMAT Spock has a problem with a crewman; Kirk tries to learn the Vulcan neck pinch; Spock and McCoy answer a medical emergency on a planet where Vulcans are regarded as machines... and machines are illegal; and others U.K. £2.50

MAKE IT SO 16 - NEW A5 FORMAT. A novel, *THE DISTAFF SIDE* by Debbie Lee. The Syrene is a race of women. They cannot have children without the aid of the male of another race; their sons breed true to the father's race, but the daughters are Syrene. The Enterprise is transporting a group of them to a meeting. When things go wrong, the female crew members get a chance to show what they can do. U.K. £2.50

MAKE IT SO 15 - NEW A5 FORMAT. The Enterprise answers a distress call; Yar takes a group of young crew members on a survival exercise; a colonising ship gives Picard's crew a problem; and others. U.K. £2.50

The A5 format is being used for a trial period in an attempt to keep zine prices down; whether we continue using it beyond that period depends on reader response. We've already had some comments, mostly favourable, and we would appreciate hearing your thoughts about the new format. In addition, if you don't like this format, can you come up with any viable suggestions for putting out a zine with approximately the same word count at approximately the same price?

☆☆☆☆

Answers.

IMGUPCVXNAQXDOUSA SAURXCLQXX
WOHDASAJLUGZQUARKB BXGKFBH ZB
N JXNCYRIHSABROTCOD INNHVAUFJ
BNEIRDOFEIHCGJNSWMGXSHLMXGR
GAMMAQUADRANTKOAHYVDRJBUWLZ
XTDUAUKOKSISEKAJSPGBQOAKDPZ
FTSVAVLEIUTENANTDAXQADJLPUK
ALHYBNAISSADRACMWJMGZGOAFTC
PYLILMUCOMMANDERGISKOMUHMZO
MZVXLWHELOHMROWXJROJABNWQEQ

- 1) Lt. Worf in The Royale.
- 2) Q in Hide & Q.
- 3) Guinan in Deja Q.
- 4) Lt Worf in Samaritan Snare.
- 5) Dr Crusher in The Arsenal of Freedom.
- 6) Admiral (McCoy) in Encounter at Farpoint.
- 7) Picard in The Most Toys.
- 8) Picard in Allegiance.
- 9) Picard (during transport) in Contagion.
- 10) Riker in Time Squared.
- 11) Riker in A Matter of Honor.
- 12) Picard in Q-Who.
- 13) L Q "Sonny" Clemands in The Neutral Zone.
- 14) Dr Crusher in Evolution.

Quiz Answers:

1. Arena, 2. Mirror, Mirror, 3. The Cage & The Menagerie, 4. The Devil In The Dark,

5. A Piece of the Action, 6. Spock's Brain, 7. By Any Other Name, 8. The Spectre of The Gun, 9. The Empath, 10. The Cloud Minders

☆☆☆☆



You can send your Zine Ads to either Janet or Sheila. While we will try and print them in full we reserve the right to edit for length if necessary. We will print these ads in two consecutive newsletters only unless we receive an update.

IDIC/ScoTpress

IDIC LOG 15 - The Daystrom labs appear to be haunted; Chekov begins to behave out of character; and others U.K. £4.00

IDIC LOG 14 - A SPECIAL NEXT GENERATION ISSUE. A crewwoman with a marriage planned for her seeks Barclay's help; a follow-up mission to Travai has problems; and others. U.K. £4.00

@ENTERPRISE - LOG ENTRIES 90 - NEW A5 FORMAT. Spock has a problem with a crewman; Kirk tries to learn the Vulcan neck pinch; Spock and McCoy answer a medical emergency on a planet where Vulcans are regarded as machines... and machines are illegal; and others U.K. £2.50

@MAKE IT SO 16 - NEW A5 FORMAT. A novel, The Distaff Side by Debbie Lee. The female crew members get a chance to show what they can do. U.K. £2.50

@MAKE IT SO 15 - NEW A5 FORMAT. The Enterprise answers a distress call; Yar takes a group of young crew members on a survival exercise; a colonising ship gives Picard's crew a problem; and others. U.K. £2.50

Other issues of E-Log Entries, IDIC Log and Make It So available, also a number of novels. SAE for full list to Sheila Clark, 6 Craigmill Cottages, Strathmartine, by Dundee DD3 0PH.

SALE

Storage is becoming something of a problem; we are therefore selling some of our older titles at a reduced price to clear

some space. Please give alternatives where possible; we have very few of some of these.

E-LOG ENTRIES 77, 80 & 81 U.K. £2.50 each

ATTUCLAC by David Gomm - Why have ships - Federation, Klingon and Romulan - been disappearing in one area? U.K. £2.50

A CITY WITHOUT WALLS - by Alinda Alain. Although he has already been defeated, Mitchell's jealousy of Kirk and Spock forces him to keep on trying to destroy them. U.K. £2.00

GZAZARA by Alinda Alain - A strange woman helps the Enterprise crew. U.K. £2.00

ORCADIA by Joyce Devlin - Kirk as a naval Captain circa 1939 investigates the loss of the Royal Oak in Scapa Flow. Has there been interference from the future? U.K. £2.50

SPINNER OF NIGHTMARES by Pam Baddeley - Who are the hostile aliens on Sigma Orionis IV? U.K. £2.50

STAR TREK CREDITS - the complete credit listing from the series, compiled by Janet Quarton. A very useful reference manual. U.K. £1.50

Order from Sheila Clark, 6 Craigmill Cottages, Strathmartine, by Dundee DD3 0PH. Please make cheques/POs payable to Scotpress. Visa/Access/Mastercard accepted. Foreign prices: Europe, add 50p per zine for A5 titles, £1 per zine for the others; Australia/Japan write to Sheila for prices, enclosing an SAE + IRC. We have authorised Bill Hupe to reprint and sell IDIC & Scotpress zines in America, Canada and APO/FPO outside Britain; send to him for prices,

enclosing a SAE.

Send submissions of TNG material to Sheila Clark, 6 Craigmill Cottages, Strathmartine, by Dundee, Scotland, and Classic Trek material to Valerie Piacentini, 20 Ardrossan Rd, Saltcoats, Ayrshire, Scotland.

BILL HUPE & PEG KENNEDY

For postage, add up the weight of the zines you want then check the postage table.

Weight	Air	Surface
Up to 2 lbs	\$16.35	\$8.60
Up to 3 lbs	\$22.40	\$11.40
Up to 4 lbs	\$27.40	\$13.90
Up to 5 lbs	\$33.75	\$17.25

For higher weights, add \$4.50/lb air, \$2.25 surface.

ABODE OF STRIFE 19 (\$9.50 + 12 oz); 20 (\$25 + 2.5 lb) 'Ry', a Star Trek novel by Betsy Fisher; 21 (\$15 + 1 lb 2 oz) 'Cycles' by Thomas Palmer; 22 - open for submissions. Send to Peg Kennedy & Bill Hupe.

KRAITH COLLECTED 1993 EDITION - Completely reorganised, placing all the Kraith Collected stories in chronological order. Each volume weighs approx 12 oz. Vol 1 (pre-series I & series I) 94pp \$5.00. Vol 2 (series II), Vol 3 (series III through Federation Centennial) 121pp \$6.25, Vol 4 (rest of series III) Vol 5 (Series V) 136pp \$6.50 Vol 6 (alternative stories), Creator's Manual (covers linguistics etc) 40pp \$7.25

CANDLELIGHT AND FLAMES 2 (\$14 + 1 lb) Second issue, hot off the press. All K/S fiction, AGE STATEMENT REQUIRED

KALIFEE 2: INTERLUDE (\$16.59 + 1 lb 2 oz) A collection of K/S stories by C A Mallett. AGE STATEMENT REQUIRED

HAILING FREQUENCIES 4 (\$9.50 + 12 oz) (TNG stories)

MATTER OF HONOR 2 is due in July. No 3 is now accepting TNG submissions. Send to Peg Kennedy & Bill Hupe.

DATA ENTRIES is filled with tidbits on Brent and fiction about Data. 1 - 4, \$1 each (4 oz each); 5 - 2, 15 - 18 \$1.50 each (6 oz each); 13/14 53 (10 oz)

READY AND WILL-ING 2 - 8 Jonathon Frakes newsletter. \$4 4oz each

ASBESTOS ENVELOPE 4 (\$6.50 + 8 oz) Contains both straight and slash fiction. 60 pages of series TNG smut!

XXX BEYOND THE FARTHEST STAR 7

(\$13.50 + 1 lb 2 oz) An old flame's death brings back memories for James Kirk; Beverly, Jean-Luc, a riding crop and bridge. Say no more! And more. Full colour cover by Michelle West. AGE STATEMENT REQUIRED

SKYLARKING ANNUAL 4 (\$10 + 12 oz) Authorised reprint. About equally split between both series, with a couple of alternate universe ST stories.

TREXINDEX SUPPLEMENT 7 (\$30 + 2.5 lbs) 500 pages. Indexes over 400 fanzines, reduced, double column.

MEDIA RARE (\$15 + 1 lb) A multi-media fanzine. ST:TNG, Quantum Leap, Highlander and much more.

We are authorised to reprint the following fanzines - out of print ScoTpress zines; Stardate Unknown 1 - 5, R & R, Archives, Showcase, Masiform D, Grup, Quartet + 2, all T'Kuhtian Press titles (Warped Space, Obsc'zine) and many other classic out of print fanzines; many other titles available. SASE + 4 IRCs for a full list. We can accept personal cheques from the U.K. Please add 1.5% for bank charges. Bill Hupe & Peg Kennedy - Footrot Flats, 916 Lamb Rd, Mason, MI 48854-9554 USA. Authorised US agent for ScoTpress, IDIC, Kay Stagg & Pat Mitchell. Our ONLY agent in Britain is Janet Ellicott (see below) - SAE her for British prices.

Greycloud Services

Large quantity of Star Trek and other fanzines always in stock. Includes new US and Australian zines, second hand zines and reprints of classic Trek zines. Send large (at least A5) SAE for full list. Janet Ellicott, 43 Brooksbank House, Retreat Place, Morning Lane, Hackney, London E9 6RN, England.

ZINES by Kay Stagg

Genzines - Kirk/Spock orientated hurt/comfort. Please make cheques or postal orders payable to Kay Stagg and send orders to 33 Barrack Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6RU. Postage and packing included in the price (second class). Please ask for price if ordering from Europe ... include an I.R.C.

NEW ZINE - LIFELINE; GATHERING STORMS; THE SPIRIT OF ENTERPRISE; THE SILENT CRY; A MAJOR CRISIS WITH THE URSUS MAJOR MINERS. 138

pages, U.K. £4.60 inc P & P.

LEGENDS - stories by Waltraud Zucha-Glass and Jennifer Cobbing. 93 pages, U.K. £3.75 inc P & P.

Still available: **SECOND CHANGE/A COLD BY ANY OTHER NAME** (Previously appeared in Stargate and Stargate II) 75 pages £3. **TROUBLES REVISITED/THE RIFT/ JUSTICE SHOULD BE SEEN TO BE DONE** (previously appeared in Stargate III and Enterprise Log Entries 61 (SciTpress)) 95 pages, £3.60. **FREEDOM** - full length story 167 pages £4.80. **TOO MANY AVENUES** - full length story £4.80. **IN PERSPECTIVE** - full length story 177 pages £4.80.

For other items, ie pens, pencils, notebooks, bookmarks, etc, please send SAE for information. I have authorised Bill Hupe to reprint and sell these zines in America, Canada and APO/FPO outside Britain; send to him for prices, enclosing a SAE.

Merry Men Press

FIRST TIME zines contain K/S stories, art and poetry. Age statement required.

FIRST TIME is always on time. All inquiries and orders are promptly filled, no-one's left to hang on the line. SAE (addressed envelope and 2 IRCs) for more info. Please send for flyers if you want to order older zines as not all of them have the interior art reproduced.

FIRST TIME 1 - 36 available. **HEARTS OF FIRE** a K/S novel by Elizabeth Scott - an intriguing mystery, and lots and lots of love.

SHARING THE SUNLIGHT - K/S novel by Jenna Sinclair. 200 pages fully illustrated by Chris Soto. Plot, love and Trek. What else can you ask for? **GAMBIT**, a Mirror/'our' universe K/S novel by Kay Wells. **WITHIN THE MIRROR 1** - 8 - an all mirror-related K/S zine, series and movie. Full of first time stories, and on time. **BESIDE MYSELF 1** - 3 - well-illustrated K/S zines exclusively written by Robin Hood and her assorted pen names.

FETISH - a K/S novel by Jenny Starr. Winner of 1988 Best Novel. **PORTRAITS** - A K/S novel by Charlotte Frost. **SCATTERED STARS 1** - 5 - an alternate universe K/S fanzine where wild imagination and first time plots collide. **PLAYFELLOWS 1** - 5 -

MULTIMEDIA '/' If you know what slash is, you don't need any more words. Prices for all zines are \$20.00 US, \$22.00 Canada, \$26.00 foreign. US currency only please. We are

also looking for quality submissions of prose and art. Merry Men Press, 274 Roanoke Rd, El Cajon, CA 92020, USA.

Rosetta Productions (formerly Empathy Press)

LET'S SEE WHAT'S OUT THERE.. 1 A new Classic/Next Gen genzine. Featuring Contagion and T'Kon prizewinning writers, also poetry and artwork. Approx 100 A4 pages. Picard prepares for a seminar; Chekov goes AWOL; Spock stands watch over an injured Kirk; Troi tries to help victims of Terrorism; Chapel makes a decision; Alexander and his new friends get into hot water; and lots lots more. Cheques/POs for £4.95 to K Heintz, 23 Birnie Hill Ave, Bathgate, West Lothian, EH48 2RR Scotland. Overseas orders send sterling and add postage. Seeking contributions for future issues. All profits to Childline.

VILLAGE PRESS

IN THE WILDERNESS 3 - Marriage, media mayhem, infidelity, and the perils of pursuing a wet Vulcan pack the pages of ITW 3, the new all story zine. 130 pp of stories by Eva Stuart, Kate Daniels, Jane Carnall and Atropos and introducing Patricia Roe. Price UK £7.00; Europe £9.00; USA \$23.00; Canada £10.00; Australia £10.50 (inc p&p airmail).

IN THE WILDERNESS 1 - Highly original writing from some of fandom's best talents. UK £7.00, Europe £9.00, USA \$23.00; Canada £10.00, Australia £10.50.

IN THE WILDERNESS 2 - (a few copies left of this print run) Why didn't Spock say his father was the Vulcan Ambassador? How does Amanda put up with husband and son? And much more! Prices as ITW1.

THE EXTREMISTS a novel by Eva Stuart. Adventure, romance music and waste disposal aboard the Enterprise! Kirk and the crew must learn to live with the Klingons if the new peace is to succeed. Complex plot, fascinating characters. UK £7.00, Europe £9.00, USA \$23.00; Canada £10.00, Australia £10.00. K/S and adult relationships; age statement please.

IN THE WILDERNESS 4 - I need one medium length story - or more if I'm greedy and go into reduced print. Village Press has just taken delivery of a real computer with

laser print so that ITW4 should look good. It will be a glamour issue with artwork from Caren Parnes and others. Stories are by a mix of old and new writers.

I'm always interested in seeing stories and never, ever unkind!

All prices air. All cheques accepted. PLEASE MAKE PAYABLE TO ROSEMARY WILD (new bank regs). All zines contain the K/S premise. Age statement please and from new readers a note that you understand the premise. Mrs. Rosemary Wild, 'Cwm Croeser', Stuckton, Fordingbridge, Hants.

THE SMALL PRINTERS

Sadly, because of rising costs, we have had to stop production of most of our zines. The exception is **NO ALTERNATIVE** by Glen David, a Star Trek - Blake's Seven crossover story, still available from L. R. Muir, 1 Moor Park Avenue, Leeds LS6 4BT, £4.75 inc p&p in UK. Please make cheques payable to L.R. Muir. However, several of our old titles, including "The Small Print" (a *Professionals* genzine, 4 issues) and several reprinted *Star Trek* stories by Meg Wright, are now available from: At the Sign of the Dragon, 131/133 Sheen Lane, London SW14 8AE. Please send an SAE to this new address for details. Thank you for your past custom.

INFINITE FRONTIERS

INFINITE FRONTIERS is a fan publishing team devoted to releasing some of the best possible zines we can, specialising in article-based zines, not unlike club newsletters. Our first release is the unique title, **THE FINAL FRONTIER**, a magazine on DISK for owners of the Commodore Amiga computer!! To our knowledge, this was the world's first disk based magazine for Trek fans. Prices are: Issue 1 (2 disks) - £3, Issue 2 (3 disks) - £4, Issue 3 (4 disks) - £5 and Issue 4 (4 disks) - £5. All the above prices include P&P. Overseas orders are welcome - with no extra postage charges!! As a special offer to IDIC members, order all 4 issues for only £14.50, saving £2.50.

All orders must be in sterling and made payable to: Simon Plumble, 14 Rousdon Grove, Great Barr, Birmingham, B43 5HN, England. Please mention IDIC when replying.

Farpoint Press

CLASSIC ENCOUNTERS 2 - The Enterprise encounters a thousand-year-old machine; Kirk is sent to acquire a mysterious painting that could join two planets together, or start a war. Approx 20 pages. £2.00 U.K. includes p&p. Please enquire for overseas rates.

CLASSIC ENCOUNTERS THREE. The Enterprise visits Tellus Four; Kirk is missing, can Spock find him in time?; Kirk acquires a mystic painting that can show the future; Logic puzzle; word search. Approx 26 pages. £2.00 including postage. £1.50 for those who bought issue 2 due to story over-lap.

ENCOUNTERS THE NEXT GENERATION

ONE. After a rescue mission strange things are happening to the computers of the Enterprise; Geordi makes a decision that will shape his future. £1.00 including postage. Cheques to be made payable to P.C. Timms. Philippa Timms, 9 Grangeside, Shore Road, Bonchurch, I.O.W PO38 1R.

H Gibson

We're looking for Trek writers to contribute to a new Classic/NG zine. No K/S and a definite slant toward "minor" Classic characters. Any NG stories welcome. If you've any work to show us please submit stories, poems and artwork to H Gibson, 23 Blairatholl Avenue, Glasgow G11 7QJ.

The Nannyte Press

MAB by Debbie Lee. A face from Ensign Ro's past poses a threat to Counselor Troi's future. Riker and Crusher have their suspicions, but no proof! Will Ro Laren say something before it's too late? And why does Captain Picard seem so reluctant to interfere? 130 reduced print pages, A5 format. Available mid October 1993. UK price £4.75 incl. p&p. Please ask for the price before ordering from abroad. All cheques, etc. in sterling only. Please make cheques and POs payable to S. Willcox, 17 Cameron Lodge, Stanley Road, Hounslow, Middx. TW3 1YX.

DUET

For Attention of all former contributors to the zines Duet 1-20, plus all the 'one-offs' published by Doreen DaBinette. We, Eileen Mitchell, and Carole Weatherill, wish to reprint the Duet series in its entirety. If you contributed as a writer, poet or artist but do

not wish for your work to be included please let us know as soon as possible. However, we hope you are agreeable to our efforts and thank you for your assistance. Please contact Carole Weatherill, 8 St Margaret's Grove, E. Twickenham, Middx TW1 1JG or Eileen Mitchell, 25 Winchester Road, E Twickenham, Middx TW1 1EL.

HULL STARFLEET

STAR TREK QUIZ BOOK Quizzes and puzzles. £3.00 inc. postage. Nina Lynch, 54, Claremont Ave., Hull, North Humberside, HU6 7LZ

KAG

THE BEST OF KAG... SO FAR. Available now. All the victories of the Klingon Assault Group - Europe documented in one monumental volume; plus costume building, language lessons, a short story, cartoons, scrapbook, and much, much more (last few copies) £3.50 (£3.00 to members) plus 50p P & P. Cheques/POs to KAG-UK. KAG Europe, PO Box 1015, Newmilns, Ayrshire, Scotland KA16 9JW.

SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM, a bi-monthly Visual Media newsletter edited by Bjo Trimble. It is full of news and well worth having. Subscription Rates for 6 issues: USA \$8 Bulk mail, \$10 First Class, Canada \$12.5 Air Printed Matter, Overseas \$18 GB/Europe Air Printed Matter, \$20 Pacific Rim Air Printed Matter. Make cheques/money orders payable to: Bjo Trimble. Bjo Trimble, P.O. Box 6858, Kingswood, TX 77325-6858 USA.

HiFi Media

M3 is an A5, 32 page fanzine produced on a Archimedes Acorn and each copy is laser printed to 600dpi. It covers all British and American television fantasy and science fiction and from issue four, radio as well, illustrating them with artwork and B&W photos. Regular columns include **MERCHANDISE** (photos and info on old and rare items), **TECH** (technical information on TV and video in English!), **OPINION** (a discussion topic in each issue) and **WAFFLE!** which is ... well read it and find out!

M3 : ISSUE FOUR - NEXT GEN'S Ensign Ro Laren comes under the spotlight, we

listen to Orson Welles' radio **WAR OF THE WORLDS**, take an overview of the new **DOCTOR WHO** adventures, consider **SURVIVORS**, combine all the Gerry Anderson puppets series into one universe, and ask if organised fandom can spoil a fan's enjoyment of their favourite series. Plus Telefantasy Reference Books, Non-English Language **MERCHANDISE**, and **WAFFLE!**

M3 : ISSUE FIVE - We ask if **FORBIDDEN PLANET** was the basis for **STAR TREK**, if the **NEXT GENERATION** novels are worthy of the name, and listen to the second season of **HITCH HIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY**. Plus **TWIN PEAKS**, **THE MOON STALLION**, **MORK AND MINDY** and more. Available August 1993.

ISSUES ONE to THREE are also available. Each issue costs £1.75 including postage, cheques/POs payable to Stuart Halliday, M3(IDIC), 35 Pinewood Park, Deans, Livingston, EH54 8NN.

AIRWAVES: A multi-media fan-fiction zine, A4 size, computer printed, photocopied photo covers. 70 - 100 pages per issue. 27 issues currently available, new issues out on a quarterly basis. Also available: **THE HOODED MAN** (Robin of Sherwood - 3 issues); **KNIGHT 2000** (Knight Rider - 14 issues); **RIDER COMING IN...** (The Young Riders - 2 issues, more planned); **FLIGHT INTO SLAVERY** (B7 crossover with Battlestar Galactica); **CHILDREN OF PEACE** (V); . Submissions wanted for any and all publications, no limits to length but no "/" fiction please. Cross-overs and/or spoofs especially welcome. Amstrad users (Locoscript 1 or 2) with PCW's 8256 or 8512 (A-drive only) (3" disc) or PCW 9265 (3.5" - 720K) can submit their work on disc to save postage. Compatible computers (3.5" - 720K), please use ASCII for documents. Discs will be sent back by return of post, manuscripts if requested. SAE (2 IRC's) for further details to: Miss B Callagher, 195 Radipole Lane, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 0TQ.

THE WIZARD'S KNOB - a non-profit-making fanzine devoted to fans of Terry Pratchett and Josh Kirby. Anyone wanting a copy should send a cheque for £2, made payable to 'The Wizard's Knob Magazine', to TWK Subscriptions, Spinneys, Post Office

Road, Woodham Mortimer, Maldon, Essex CM9 6SX, or send an SAE for info to John Penney, 'The Wizard's Knob', 50 Sunnybank, Kirkham, Preston, Lancashire PR4 2JF.

☆☆☆☆

CONVENTIONS/ADVERTS/CLUBS/GROUPS



Conventions



LATCON 2 The London Away Team second one-day Convention. Saturday 20th November, 1993. Video rooms featuring Trek both Classic and TNG, also hopefully DS9 latest. Featuring enlarged dealers' room, quiz, excellent bar and some food. Charities: The World Society for the Protection of Animals (Liberty) and Sickle Cell Research. Nearest tube Tottenham Court Road. Dealer enquiries welcome. For info send SAE to LATCON 2, 36 Evenwood Close, Carlton Drive, London SW15 2DA. Be there or be a Ferengi with a hat on!

SOMETHING ELSE NEW YEAR'S BASH Trek/Sci-Fi Party. The Youth Hostel, Swanage, Dorset. 30th Dec 93 - 1st Jan 1994. Why stay at home on New Year's Eve when you can party with us? Details from Something Else, PO Box 16, Consett, Co. Durham DH8 8YZ. Please enclose an SAE.

STARBASE 94 28th - 30th January, 1994. Hilton International Hotel, Leeds. Guest of Honour: GEORGE TAKEI, others still to be confirmed. We will be showing; TNG, Deep Space 9 and Original Trek. Non-Trek programmes will also be screened. Other activities will include; Fancy Dress, Discos, Dealers' Tables, Auctions, Art/Model & Fiction competitions and more!! Our convention charities are; St. Gemma's Hospice, Leeds & the Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust. Registration; £35 Adult, £17.50 child under 14, Under 5's go free. Day registration rates available on request. Hotel room rates (per person per night); £26.50 sharing, £33 single. This rate includes Full English Breakfast & VAT. For more details and a Registration form write (enclosing Stamped Self Addressed Envelope please!) to; Carol Looby, 152 Otley Road, Headingly,

Leeds LS16 5JX.

LALCON One day event 13th February, 1994, featuring TNG, Classic and DS9 in 3 video rooms. Dealers room and quiz, with food available. All £10 entry fee to benefit Moat House Special School Children. Parking free, excellent access and facilities for disabled. No creche. Basildon is 25 mins drive from the Dartford bridge and 3 British Rail stops from Upminster tube. Send SAE to Lalcon, Moat House School, Church Road, Basildon, Essex SS14 2NQ. Dealer enquiries welcome. Wear uniform for pub collection round if you feel bold enough!

TKON 1994 - 1st - 4th April 1994 at Norfolk Gardens Hotel, Bradford. Guest - Armin Shimerman (Quark) and John Carrigan (subject to work commitments). Registration £25; Fri/Sat or Sat/Sun £20, Sun/Mon £15; single day, Fri, Sun, Mon £10, Sat £15. Students, unemployed or OAPs (at the time of the con) deduct £5 from above rates. Children under 16 half price, children under 5 free. Room Rates: £28 twin/double PPPN, £33 single per night. Cheaper accommodation is available at Bradford University. Programme - DS9, TNG and OT video rooms, workshops, guest talks, disco, theme parties (horror night, great Federation Masked Ball, mediaeval adventure), drama show, fancy dress, photograph competition, quizzes, sales room and lots more! TKon 1994, 167 Kingshurst Rd, Northfield, Birmingham B31 2LL

UFP CON '94 (The 37th British Star Trek Convention) 29th April to 2nd May 1994, Britannia International Hotel, London. Registration: £30. Under 16's half price, under 10's free. Accommodation: £27.50 per person in a twin, double or triple, £31.00 in a single. For a registration form and further details please send an SAE to Ros Liddle, 61 The Scotchhill, Coventry CV6 2EW.

WOLF 359 in association with 1701 A-D
28th - 31st October 1994. Holiday Inn
Leicester. Registration £30 (till Dec 93),
children under 16 years half price, under 7
years FREE. Payments by instalments
accepted. Accommodation: All rooms
include B&B. Triple £25.00, Twin/Double
£30.00, Single £41.00. Enquire about the
QUAD at £22.50. Young adults under 19
years are free when sharing with a parent.
(breakfast will be charged additionally). All
enquiries to Margo White, 37 Branksome
Road, Southend on Sea, Essex SS2 4HG.
Please enclose a SAE.

STARSHIP VOYAGES presents a Star Trek
cruise to Norway on 3rd June 1995. Join our
7 night mission of fun with John de Lancie
(subject to '95 commitments) and other guests
from ST; ST:TNG; DS9. This cruise is
organised by fans for fans. For more
information send a SSAE to Starship
Voyages, 5 Plough Rise, Cranham,
Upminster, Essex RM14 1XR.

CONTAGION 93 Can the following
people who won prizes in aid of the
Grampian Area Lymphoma Fund but
didn't collect them please contact me about
whether they want them or not, and
arrange delivery if needed, A.S.A.P.

Routaenat F.V. (No. 90)
Wendy Steventon (No 102)
Ann McMillan (No 127)

And also the people who were drooling
over the Hooker photo - you could still be
in luck!

Maggie Symon, Upper Dallachy, Spey Bay,
Fochabers, Moray IV32 7PW

OTHER EVENTS

OCTOCOON 93 The Fourth Science Fiction
Convention. 30th-31st October, Royal
Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.
Guests include: Storm Constantine, Steve
Dillon, Michael Carroll, Diane Duane,
Katherine Kurtz, Morgan Llywelyn, Ann
McCaffrey, Scott McMillan, Peter Morwood,
Michael Scott, James White. Pre-registration
£15. For more info send SAE to Octocon '93,

20 Newgrove Avenue, Sandymount, Dublin
4, Ireland.

ARMADACON V The Friendly Science
Fiction and Fantasy Convention.
12th-14th November, 1993. The Astor Hotel,
Elliot Street, The Hoe, Plymouth, Devon.
Guests to include Danny John-Jules (Cat from
Red Dwarf), Mike Jefferies & Adrian Cole.
(All guests subject to work commitments.)
Other guests to be announced. Events:
Writers' Panel, Dealers' Room, Autograph
Opportunities, Guest Panels, Competitions,
Role-Playing, Charity Auction. Registration:
Weekend £20 (including Friday night. One
day and half day rates available on request.
For more details and registration form please
write enclosing an SAE to ArmadaCon V,
c/o 4 Gleneagle Avenue, Mannamead,
Plymouth, Devon PL3 5HL.

**THE THIRTEENTH LEONARD NIMOY
CONVENTION:** November 19th - 21st 1993.
Stakis Victoria Hotel, Nottingham. Full film
programme spanning his career.
Registration forms and details from Carol
Davies, 43 Lawrence Road, Hayes, Middlesex
UB4 8QB.

WILD WEST THEME PARTY - Presented
by the London Star Trek Group.
22nd January, 94 - Noon 'til late.
International Hotel, Canary Warf, London
E1. Classic, TNG & DS9 videos, professional
Cabaret and disco. We will also have
Western Decor, Buckin' Bull machine, firing
range, Quick Draw and Horseshoe Throwing
Contests, and prizes for the best Western
outfit. £15 per person or £20 with a basket
meal. Overnight accommodation from £27.50
- £30 per person, including VAT & full
English breakfast. For tickets and more info,
send SAE to Kim Knight, 38 Rochford
Avenue, Loughton, Essex IG10 2BS.

TREK/DWARF II The 2nd British Star Trek/
Red Dwarf Convention at the Holiday Inn,
Leicester. 25th-27th March, 1994.
Registration £30. Guests: T.B.A. Please send
3 SSAEs for further details to Trek/Dwarf, 47
Marsham, Orton Goldhay, Peterborough PE2
5RN

ELYDORE The Easter Event. Meeting at a

UK airport the Thursday before Easter, Elydore will fly you to Guernsey for a combined half-board holiday and full two day Convention (Confirmed guest Terry Pratchett). SAE for details to Elydore '94, c/o 16 Tonbridge Road, West Molesey, Surrey KT8 0EL.

VOYAGE '94 29th-31st July 1994. The First British Convention for fans of Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea. Novotel, Sheffield. Registration: £25 until 31/12/93, then £30. One day rates available. Room Rates: £26 per person, per night - Twin/Double; £33 per person, per night - Single. These rates apply for a 2 night stay. For more details and registration form please send an SAE or 2 IRCs to: Voyage 94, 15 Fullers Court, Exeter, Devon EX2 4DZ.

MASQUE III - The Third British Costume Convention. March 4th-6th, 1994. Stakis Victoria Hotel, Nottingham. It will provide a forum for interchange of ideas between makers of Science Fiction, Historical, Role Playing and all other forms of costume. Membership: Full £20, Supporting £5. SAE for info to Masque III, c/o Mike Percival, 4 Ednaston Court, Yeldersley Lane, Ednaston, Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 3BA.

AWAYTEAM '95 Yes, folks, we are doing it again. Next time will be in September 1995. Join us for a terrific Trek and Space Travel theme holiday, taking in a visit to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the Star Trek Adventure, Yosemite, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Paramount Studios, to name but a few of the many exciting places we will be visiting. For further details, please contact Sadie Mason & Paul Anson, 63 Woodstock Ave, Bobbers Mill, Nottingham NG7 5QP. (Once again we want to point out that we have NO CONNECTION with the Glasgow Away Team.)

OVERSEAS CONVENTIONS

FEDERATION CON II 1-3 April, Arabella Hotel, Munich, Germany. Guests George Takei, Robin Curtis, Richard Arnold. Registration £75 until 31/12/93, then £85. For more info and registration form send SAE plus IRC to Federation Con II, Monika

Schomann, Schopplerstr. 24, 86154 Augsburg, Germany.

STARDREAM I CONVENTION Mannheim Congress Centre, Rosengarten. For more info and registration form send SAE plus IRC to Star Trek Fancub, Enterprise, c/o S. Strybuc, Hans Sachs Ring 17, 68199 Mannheim-Niederfeld, Germany.

PERSONAL COLUMN

Martin Harrison

Happy 23rd birthday, Martin, on 1st November.

With love from Joanna.

Best wishes from Janet, Sheila and Valerie.

CAN YOU HELP

Help! Did you take my picture with Jimmy Doohan at Starbase '93? I was the guy with long hair behind you in the autograph queue. You were the young man with your even younger friend. You wrote my address down on some school paper you had. I gave you money for photo and postage. Even if the photo didn't come out, I'd still like to know. Send to Robert T Kirkwood, KAG Europe, PO Box 1015, Newmilns, Ayrshire, Scotland KA16 9JW (and the wrath of the entire Klingon Assault Group will be averted!)

Would the young lady in the pink glasses who danced with me at the ceilidh at Contagion 93 (we also crossed paths at the Stewards' Party and Video One) drop me a line as I forgot to ask who you were? Edward Woo, 553 Smithdown Rd, Liverpool, L15 5AF.

Are there any IDIC members in the Reading, Berkshire area (apart from you, Helen White, I already know you). Let me know, perhaps we could get together and chat Star Trek. Jo Christodoulides, 33 Kendrick Road, Reading, Berks RG1 5DU.

I am looking for pen-friends who love Chekov as much as I do. I am 29 years old and have been a Star Trek fan for some years. I would also love to swap or buy old photos or magazine posters of Chekov. Please write to Miss Shirley Read, 52 Stanton Road, Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands B90 2DY.

Help! I'm an 18 year old Trekker, I have only recently discovered TNG and DS9. So I'm looking for fans to write to who can fill me in on what I've been missing. (I can't afford Sky, or all the videos!) and to make friends. Fans of music such as 'Megadeth' welcome. Contact Captain Adam J. North, 88 Aylsham Road, Norwich, Norfolk NR3 2HN.

Chris Jäger would like to contact some UK fans. Chris Jäger, Rongstr. 13, 97262 Hausen, Germany.

Carole Taylor would love to hear from anyone interested in TNG and Data/Brent Spinner - 13 Winster Road, Eccles, Manchester M30 7DP.

37 year old single Trekker seeks fellow Trekkers. I like music & related, most types. I am sick of the current moronic pub/club scene. Is there someone in this Quadrant? Please write to Peter Hickman, 326 Cluny Place, Glenrothes, Fife KY7 4QY.



SMALL ADS

Please note: All adverts are printed as a service to members and IDIC cannot accept any liability. Adverts should be a maximum of 10 lines - will be printed in one newsletter only.

Please only offer original items for sale - adverts will be edited if necessary. We will not knowingly print adverts for copied material which break copyright.

FOR SALE: 25th anniversary cap, £5 / Giant Novels, £3:- Metamorphosis, Enterprise - First Adventure, Strangers From The Sky, Final Frontier, Shadow Lord / Hardbacks, £10:- Reunion, Devil's Heart, Prime Directive, Lost Years, Probe, Best Destiny / All 6 Trek Movie novels £2.50 ea. / other novels, £2.50:- Flag Full Of Stars, Dreadnought, Kobayashi Maru / The Classic Episodes (3 volumes, 25th anniversary edition; £15 the lot or £6 ea.) / World Of Star Trek by David Gerrold £5 /

IDIC Log 9, £3.50 / TNG CD 'Encounter At Farpoint' £8 / Various Trek Videos £5 each. Phone Edwin on (0273) 734860 after 7pm.

FOR SALE: ST zines, both K/S and Gen. Send SAE for list to: Beverley Hickling, 14 Wakefield Place, Leicester LE4 6SD.

FOR SALE - large collection of Star Trek related merchandise - books, magazines, cards, calendars, newsletters, CIC Videos. Many bargains and rarities - everything must go! For price list, send a SAE to Scott Carrick, Craigview, Craigton, North Kessock, Inverness, Scotland IV1 1YG or telephone 0463 73584 after 7 pm.

FOR SALE - PFS Windows Works (PC) software. Bundled software, unwanted, unregistered, unopened. £20 inc P & P. Maggie Symon, Upper Dallachy, Spey Bay, Fochabers, Moray IV32 7PW.

FOR SALE - Star Trek zines and large format books. Selling because of lack of space. Send SAE for list. Also copy of Star Trek: The Motion Picture and Wrath of Khan on V2000 system, unboxed - will accept any reasonable offer. K Heintz, 23 Birniehill Avenue, Bathgate.

FOR SALE - TNG Trading Cards: Inaugural Edition, 2 sets £9 each; Seasons 1 & 2, 1 set £9. Classic & TNG Trading cards (various) 5p each (contact me for list of cards available). ST novels: Battlestations, The Lost Years, The Klingon Gambit, Faces of Fire, The Galactic Whirlpool, Mutiny on the Enterprise £1.50 each. TNG novels Boogeymen, Chains of Command £1.50 each. Ronnie Reid, 29 Herriot Avenue, Kilbirnie, Ayrshire KA25 7HZ.

FOR SALE: 4th & 5th season CIC ST:TNG videos nos: 39-47, 49-52, 56, 58, 59 & 63. £7.50 each incl p&p. Would prefer to sell together. Also, Original ST CIC Videos nos: 19/20, 23/24, 27/28, 33/34, 43/44, 63/64, 71/72, 77/78/79. £6 each incl p&p. Would prefer to sell together. J.M. Fenn, 2 Albisden Court, Blinco Road, Rushden. Northants NN10 0EA.

FOR SALE - Genuine CIC Videos. ST:TNG seasons 4, 5 and first six tapes of season 6.

£230 for all 32 tapes. (I do not wish to split them) Tel: Haydn, on (Risca, Gwent) 0633 601167, Sat or Sun after 9pm.

FOR SALE - New list! Star Trek zines, gen + K/S. Also back issues of IDIC newsletter. Please send SAE to: Christine Jones, The Bungalow, Recreation Ground, Leeholme, Co. Durham DL14 8HN.

FOR SALE - 1) Cast Resin Bajoran military breast badge/communicator, velcro backed lightweight, painted badge £3.50.

2) Available very soon - Bajoran collar badges £3.50 a pair available as pin back, wire back or velcro back.

3) Next Gen communicator badge - resin, velcro backed, unpainted £3.50.

Note: These are non-profit fan produced items for fans and not intended for commercial distribution or gain. Suggestions for further items welcomed. Chris Coxon, Westway, Rectory Lane, Winchelsea, E. Sussex TN36 4EY. P&P is included in the price, by 1st class letterpost.

FOR SALE - Variety of Star Trek and other SF novels. A copy of the Official Star Trek Cooking Manual. For price list send SAE to Jo Christodoulides, 33 Kendrick Road, Reading, Berks RG1 5DU.

FOR SALE - TNG (Titan) paperbacks nos 2, 3, 6, 7, 8 9. U.S. paperbacks TNG 11, DS9 1. Also Galactica Photostory. All £2 each, perfect condition. CIC TNG Videos nos 26 - 29, £5 each. Most Starlogs 1987 - present. £3 each (send wants list). All prices post paid. Ahmet Ali, 14 Champion Grove, London SE5 8BW.

WANTED - Anything on Jonathan Frakes - video or printed material - to buy or borrow. Will pay reasonable prices. Also wanted a copy of Joan Rivers Show when she interviewed the cast of TNG. I'll meet any postage costs. Janis L. Roberts, 2 Bryn Ogwen, Penrhosgarnedd, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2DX.

WANTED - Can anyone help? I'm trying to get hold of two SF titles, Friends Come in Boxes by Michael Coney (pub 1974) and Healer by F Paul Wilson (pub 1977). Chris

Bailey, 52 Druids Walk, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 7PF.

WANTED: Can anyone lend me tapes of "Tiny Toon Adventures"? If so, contact Edwin on (0273) 734860 after 7pm for further details. I'll pay for postage.

WANTED - To buy, a copy of Data's fanzine, Cygnet, also copies of Starlog, no.s 171 and 192. Carole Taylor, 13 Winster Road, Eccles, Manchester M30 7DP.

WANTED - K/S zines Nor No Man Ever Loved, If Freedom Fall, Gemini (*not* Gemini the Flame and the Fire), Candlelight and Flames & Flames and Warlords. I will pay any reasonable price. Contact J Turner, 46 Chinnbrook Rd, Billesley, Birmingham B13 0LX, or phone 021-443-2995 AFTER 6PM, PLEASE.

WANTED - ST:TNG Panini stickers to complete collection. Spare stickers, original Trek/NG trading cards or cash available in exchange. Margie Ferguson, 46 Broughton Road, South Shields, Tyne & Wear NE33 2RP.

WANTED - I am interested in any zines and newsletters. Also CIC videos (TNG only). Reasonable prices only. Jennifer Blanchard, 14 Eashing Lane, Godalming, Surrey GU7 2JZ.

WANTED - Any IBM compatible software relating to Star Trek, eg clip art or Trek fonts. Stephen Daniels, Braenaloin, Smailholm, Nr Kelso, Roxburghshire, TD5 7PJ.

WANTED - Back issues of The Official Fan Club Magazine (US) in good condition. Reasonable prices paid. Please contact Paul Greenstreet, 22 Byron Avenue, Margate, Kent CT9 1TU.

WANTED - for an American friend. Anything on Danger Mouse (the cartoon). Also any humorous fanzines, K/S or otherwise (Star Trek). Jo Christodoulides, 33 Kendrick Road, Reading, Berks RG1 5DU.

WANTED - Anything and everything on Brent Spiner, especially his pre-Star Trek work, also "Crime of Innocence" and

American TV interviews. I am also looking for fellow fan penfriends. Did anyone take any photographs of Marina at "Warp One" that they'd be willing to sell me prints of? Lynette Attwood, 63 Warren Close, Tipton, West Midlands DY4 9PQ

WANTED - Any kind of picture (or photocopy) of Jonathan Del Arco 'Hugh' from 'I Borg' with and especially *without* Borg Prosthetics - will reimburse all postage costs. 34 Glen Road, Lennoxton, Glasgow G65 7JX.

WANTED - videos of the new series of Melrose Place. I will of course pay for postage and tapes. Donnie Macleod, 13 Jamieson Drive, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis PA87 2TE.

BUSINESS SMALL ADS

CALIVER BOOKS, 816-818 London Road, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, SS9 3NH. Tel 0702 73986. They stock Star Trek books, games and models and have offered to supply them post free to IDIC members in the UK. They will also supply goods at reduced postage to members outside the U.K. They also stock general SF.

Send 3 1st class stamps (3 IRCs outside UK) for lists stating interests and that you are a member of IDIC.



CLUBS & GROUPS



UPDATE

We have available a set of information sheets giving the addresses and brief details of all the British Star Trek clubs and local groups we know about, plus Star Trek related actor clubs in the UK and abroad. If you would like a copy write and ask Janet; enclose at least a 9" x 6" SAE plus an extra loose 24p stamp. (Note: new members receive a copy of this when they join IDIC,

although we update it with the following info from each newsletter.)

Please enclose a SASE when writing to clubs for information.

THE KLINGON ASSAULT GROUP - Join the new way of Trek fandom for those who hear the cry of the warrior. Newsletter subscription £4.00 per year. SAE to KAG-Europe, PO Box 1015, Newmilns, Ayrshire, Scotland KA16 9JW

SOMETHING ELSE (The Klingon Strike Force) The club for fans of all Treks aliens and sci-fi minded people. We have monthly meetings around the country, national and international roleplaying plus penpal network, quarterly newsletter. FREE membership. Send SAE stating species of interest to: Something Else, PO Box 16, Consett, Co. Durham DH8 8YZ.

UNITED FEDERATION OF PLANETS 4 Rose Cottage, Canal Lane, West Stockwith, Nr. Doncaster, S. Yorks DN10 4EU. Bi-monthly magazine full of news, features and your letters etc. New members start as ensigns and promotion is achieved by active involvement in the club. UK dues £7.00.

QUARK'S BAR is open for business!! Issue One has just been issued, and number two is due in December. Join Britain's 1st DS9 fan club now! Also, let us know what you want to see, and Jim will try and fix it for you. Write to Maria Woodward, 'Ashcroft', East Street, Westbourne, Nr. Emsworth, Hants PO10 8SH or Miss Dawn Tittley, 117 Dolwiche Road, Kingstanding, Birmingham B44 0EW. UK membership is £6.00 per year only at present.

NATIONAL STAR TREK SOCIETY. SAE for info to Damon M. Wise, NSTS, 4 Lisin, Tullyglass, Shannon, Co. Clare, Ireland.

THE FINAL FRONTIER is a new Star Trek club (Classic, TNG and DS9) with monthly newsletters in German language. The subscription rate for one year (12 issues) is DM 25.-- for all European countries. For further information send a SAE and an IRC to: The Final Frontier, c/o

Martin Stahl, Ulrich-Willer-Str. 8, D-97828 Marktheidenfeld, Germany.

OUTPOST, the "Open Union of Trekkers for the Preservation of ORIGINAL Star Trek" is a Club dedicated to the ORIGINAL Star Trek series ONLY. It is our venture to ensure that ORIGINAL Trek continues to live long and prosper. We are an International, English-language Club, which provides our members with 6 newsletters a year, plus a membership package, and LOTS of merchandise, as well as our own zines. Membership costs £15 or 30DMs for one membership year. For more details and information please write, enclosing 2 IRCs for those people in the UK, 4 IRCs for those in the States, Canada & Australia, and 2 x 1DM stamps for those within Germany to "OUTPOST", Karen Hayden & Bettina Rackel, Rheinstrasse 23, 47799 Krefeld, West Germany.

GENE RODDENBERRY SOCIETY, (New) c/o Sandra Keel, 4001 County Road, Lafayette AL 36862, USA.

SEF Fan Network for fans of Siddig el Fadil, Marilyn Wilkerson, 1008 S. Parker, Evansville, IN 47714, USA. (PLEASE NOTE CORRECTED ADDRESS) Marilyn Wilkerson has founded this club, she will send a newsletter for a self-addressed envelope and postage (I would suggest 3 IRCs).

WILLIAM SHATNER CONNECTION, 7059 Atoll Avenue, N. Hollywood, CA 91605 USA.

DeFOREST KELLEY COMMUNIQUE, Sue Kennan, 5507 W. 98th St. #2, Los Angeles, CA 90045 U.S.A.

WALTER KOENIG INT'L, POB 15546, N. Hollywood, CA 91615 U.S.A.

OTHER CLUBS

QUANTUM QUEST A British Info/Letterzine for fans of Quantum Leap. 5 Sandfield Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 8AW. Dues £3.00 (Europe £4.00, USA and Australia £5 or US \$10) for 4 issues. Cheques/POs should be made payable to Ms. H C Broadribb.

DRONE is a bi-monthly film & TV modellers newsletter run by enthusiasts. Each issue contains hints, tips, reviews and prize competitions. Published six times a year, subscription runs December to December and if you join mid year you get all of that year's back issues too. Subscription is £8.00 per year. Cheques, P.O.s made payable to Andrew Hall (Editor), 172 High Hope Street, Crook, Co Durham DL15 9JA.

LOCAL GROUP NEWS

NORTHWEST AREA: Anyone interested in starting a local group for socialising, please contact Samantha Tuley, 11 Heys Close, Blackburn, Lancs. BB2 4PF or Adele Hilton, 104 Elgin Street, Halliwell, Bolton, Lancs BL1 3ET.

OPEN HAIL TO INTELLIGENT (?)LIFEFORMS IN FALKIRK/STIRLING AREA: Just when you thought Scotland was all Trekked out - In Stenhousemuir, no one can hear you giggle! **DARE YOU FACE...THE FALKIRK FERENGII???** Trek, TNG, SF, Media, RPG, Comics, Japanime and bad, bad puns are our forte. Any local yokels or those willing to commute who are interested in forming a light-hearted, light-headed and generally sociable group please contact Peter & Lorraine Poole, 43 Kingsley Avenue, Stenhousemuir, Larbert, Stirlingshire. Phone: 0324-570-300.

NORTH WALES Local Group. Contact Martin Hodgkins, 69 Fairways, Llandudno, Gwynedd.

IDIC/Off World Society of Vulcans/Outpost/Something Else/Original Trekkers, do you want to meet for coffee and a chat first Saturday of every month 12 noon. Pretty-in-Pink Cafe, West Orchid Centre, Coventry. (Klingons permitting) Tel 0203-503113.

A new ST group (as yet unnamed) has started in Ashford (Kent). Fortnightly meetings involve chat, tea, coffee & videos. Contact Chris King on 071 580 4741 ext 196 during office hours or Dave and Tina Styles on 0233 642687 any time.

THE AWAY TEAM: Glasgow Star Trek Local Group. Meetings every 6 weeks approx. SAE for info to The Away Team, P.O. Box 867, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 4HR.

THE BRIDGE CREW: - formerly The Landing Party. The group can be contacted at Wester Auchinricoch Farm, Banton, Near Kilsyth G65 0QZ. Please enclose an SAE.

FARPOINT needs you! If you live in the Isle of Wight area then this new local group needs you. SAE for info to Philippa Timms, Silver Glade, 9 Grangeside, Shore Road, Bonchurch, Isle of Wight PO38 1RW.

HULL STARFLEET Monthly meetings at the Tamworth Lodge, Beverley Road, Hull. Sundays 12 noon until 5pm, admission £1. Oct 17th, Nov 21st, Dec 19th. For more info contact Tracy Beadle, 7 Lynwood Grove, Goddard Avenue, Hull HU5 2BE. Please enclose a SAE.

IPSWICH STARFLEET Star Trek Fan Club encompassing all forms of Star Trek. For details please write, with SAE, to Chris Wileman, 15 Parkeston Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk, IP11 8NF or telephone number above.

LEEDS STARFLEET: Meetings on the 2nd Sunday of the month between 12 and 5pm at Centenary House, North Street, Leeds 2. New larger venue!!! Write with SAE for more details to; Leeds Starfleet, P.O. Box HP 1701, Leeds LS6 4TE.

THE LONDON STAR TREK GROUP meets every two months or so at the Britannia Intercontinental Hotel, Grosvenor Square, London W1. For more details send an SAE to Kim Knight, 38 Rochford Avenue, Loughton, Essex IG10 2BS.

OPEN HOUSE First weekend of every month but please phone first to check (081 985 0426). Zines for sale, tapes to watch, other fans to chat to. Janet Ellicott, 43 Brooksbank House, Retreat Place, Morning Lane, Hackney E9.

PRIME DIRECTIVE meets twice monthly at a city centre venue. Write to Michael

Butcher, 501 Beechdale Road, Aspley, Nottingham NG8 3LF, for further info, enclosing an SAE.

SPACE CENTRAL The West Midlands Star Trek Group. Monthly meetings at Tamworth Arts Centre Theatre, Saturdays. Latest episodes on large screen, refreshments and occasional guest speakers/live events. Social evenings. Over 16s only. £1.50 per session. For dates/further details, SAE to Lee Owers Sansome, 15 Foxglove, Amington, Tamworth, Staffs B77 4HY.

STAR TREK: THE NEW GATHERING (U.S.S. Discovery). Local meetings held in the Community Room, St Helens Library monthly. Write for details to Sharon Rowe, 93 Juddfield Street, Haydock, St Helens, Merseyside WA11 0BD.

U.S.S. TIANAMEN - Kirkcaldy's new Star Trek club for the over-18s. All enquiries contact Zander Bruce, 73 Brown Crescent, Thornton, Fife KY1 4AB, including SAE. 50% of money taken goes to IDIC Guide Dogs.

THE OUTER ZONE: meets once a month in Brighton. For more details of the club and the newsletter, please send an SASE to Ms. Sue Parker, The Outer Zone, 42 Victoria Street, BRIGHTON, East Sussex, BN1 3FQ.

DREAMWEAVERS local group specialising in Doctor Who, Star Trek and other cult Sci-fi. For more information please send a SAE to Ursula Clarke, 10 Bunbury Road, Bury St. Edmunds, IP32 6HT.

☆☆☆☆

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The opinions stated in this newsletter are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the committee.

Send to:-

Janet - Subscriptions, renewals, all newsletter submissions on disc; all news, cuttings, adverts, merchandise info etc. for the newsletter; used stamps for the Guide Dogs.

Sheila - All Zine orders; postbag, articles & reviews for the newsletter; TNG submissions for zines (stories, poetry and artwork); used stamps.

Valerie - Classic Trek submissions for zines (stories, poetry and artwork).

Helen - Submissions of crosswords, quizzes etc.

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Dues UK £7.50, USA/Middle East Air \$23.00 (£13.25), Australia £14.50, Europe £9.50.

DATA PROTECTION ACT

This is a statutory notice as prescribed by the above Act. In accordance with the conditions governing the maintenance of machine-readable records by non-incorporated members' clubs, IDIC must advise that the names and addresses of every member are held in a computer-readable format in order to more efficiently prepare and despatch newsletters. The information is used for this purpose only, and will not be disclosed to any other party whatsoever without the specific consent of the Data Subject (i.e. the member concerned). You should also be aware that you have a statutory right for your name to be deleted from the computer record and for your newsletters to be addressed manually.

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